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Hirohito's condition stable

TOKYO, Sept. 25, (UPI): Emperor Hirohito's condition stabilized today as the 87-year-old monarch spent the day visiting with family members and watching sumo wrestling on television, a palace spokesman said.

Hirohito, believed to have abdominal cancer, was given a blood transfusion and blood platelets to help cope with internal bleeding which began a week ago, palace officials said.

The emperor's temperature hovered near 98.6 (37 Celsius) throughout the day, indicating a recovery from yesterday afternoon when his fever shot up to 102.5 (39.2 Celsius), said Imperial Household Agency spokesman Kenji Maeda.

Hope

A public vigil outside the imperial palace has drawn more than 200,000 well-wishers over four days, including 100,000 who stood in heavy rain today to sign a book symbolizing hope for the emperor's recovery.

Two Belgians charged with Kuwaiti kidnap

NORTHAMPTON, England, Sept. 25, (Reuters): Two Belgians have been charged in connection with the kidnap of a rich Kuwaiti businessman in Britain, police said today.

The two, who were not named, will appear tomorrow before magistrates in Northampton, central England.

Waleed Al Humaidhi, 38, was abducted from his home at Brixworth, also in central England, last Monday.

He was freed from a house in London on Thursday night. Police said a one million pound (\$1.67 million) ransom which had been demanded was not paid.

Support Arab resolution, urges Saudi Arabia

Place all Israeli nuclear facilities under scrutiny

VIENNA, Sept. 25, (KUNA): Saudi Arabia called on all world states to support an Arab resolution adopted by the Arab group, to place all nuclear facilities in Israel under a periodic inspection and guarantee system.

Hope

Isa Al Nuweiser, Saudi Ambassador to Austria and the kingdom's permanent representative at the UN agencies and councils in the Austrian capital, said in an address before the 32nd session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna yesterday.

The Arab resolution, was submitted to the current general conference of the agency by the Arab group.

Al Nuweiser expressed hope that Israel's friends will back the Arab resolution and reminded Israel to stop its wrong practices.

"The Arab resolution affirms previous resolutions of the United Nations and decisions of previous general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which are aimed at responding positively to the general desires matching with the agency's constitution that call for the development of peaceful usage of nuclear energy in the world and prevent spread of nuclear energy for military purposes," he said.

The Saudi ambassador said

mitted to the current general conference of the agency by the Arab group.

the Arab resolution is aimed at overcoming obstacles facing the peaceful usage of the nuclear energy and removing anxiety and instability in the region as well as regaining confidence.

Achieved

"This could be achieved by stopping Israel from diverting nuclear energy to military purposes and preventing it from using threats to attack peaceful nuclear facilities in the region's states," Al Nuweiser said.

He added that the Arab resolution, which matched with the previous resolutions of the general conference, is moderate in its text and language.

The ambassador rejected

Israeli representative's claim to make the region a free zone from weapons and said this claim does not represent reality as Israel is the only one in the region, which has developed its nuclear military capability while other nations of the region have no such intentions.

Claim

He said the claim of the Israeli representative is aimed at defeating the Arab resolution at the general conference.

Al Nuweiser called on industrialised countries to produce advanced versions of nuclear reactors with safer and simpler design so that they could be used by developing countries.

Syria rejects Aoun's cabinet

BEIRUT, Sept. 25, (Agencies): Syria today rejected Lebanon's three-day-old Christian military government in favour of one declared by its Muslim allies, deepening the sectarian partition of the country.

Syria's Al Thawra daily, which speaks for President Hafez Al Assad's government, branded the Christian cabinet of Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun a "military coup d'etat against legitimacy."

It added in an editorial: "This government not only constitutes a coup against legitimate state institutions and laws, but it is also a coup against the historic chance to elect a new president and pave the way for national reconciliation and salvation."

Disapproval

Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, backs the five-man cabinet of Sunni Muslim Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, which includes the two main Muslim militia leaders, Druze leader Walid Jumblatt and Shiite leader Nabih Berri.

Iran also expressed disapproval of the appointment of Aoun to head a new government in Beirut.

The bizarre political deadlock, with two governments competing for power in this war-ravaged Mediterranean nation, stemmed from Parliament's failure to elect a successor to Christian President Amin Gemayel before his six-year term expired at midnight last Thursday.

The crisis has plunged Lebanon into turmoil, with the rival cabinets issuing contradictory orders to civil servants, and threatens to rekindle the 13-year-old civil war if it is not resolved.

Police said unidentified gunmen fired a rocket-propelled grenade into the Bristol Hotel in Beirut during the night, gutting an occupied third floor room.

An hour later, a dynamite bomb exploded near a Syrian Army checkpoint a block from the hotel, police reported. There were no casualties in either attack.

Guarded

Firemen quickly put out the fire at the heavily guarded Bristol, where Robert Franjeh, son of Syrian-backed former President Sleiman Franjeh, has been staying since his father announced his candidacy in Lebanon's abortive presidential election.

An aide said the younger Franjeh had left his fourth floor suite for the family's summer resort of Ebden in north Lebanon hours before the grenade attack.

No one claimed responsibility for either incident. But, like a string of bombings and attacks on Syrian forces over the last year they appeared to be aimed at discrediting Syria's peacekeeping role in west Beirut.

Nonetheless, the attacks heightened tensions generated by the emergence of rival governments vying for legitimacy in Lebanon's worst political crisis since independence from France 45 years ago.

The split threatens to formalize the de facto partition of Lebanon into sectarian cantons during the civil war in which more than 150,000 people have been killed.

Aoun, a Maronite Catholic, was named Prime Minister by Gemayel minutes before his term ended. He said yesterday he planned to send an emissary to

(Continued on Page 2)

Tiwari renews concern on Pakistan's N-plan

India may join nuclear race

By Fathima Ahmad

INDIA'S Minister of State for Foreign Affairs K.K. Tiwari said his country might exercise its "nuclear option" if Pakistan could not be dissuaded from producing nuclear weapons.

Tiwari, during a brief stopover in Kuwait on his way back from Baghdad, voiced concern over Pakistan's nuclear programme saying "any induction of nuclear weapons in our neighbourhood creates complications (for India) and leads to a material change in our security."

"For this reason, we've been trying to impress upon Pakistan's friends to dissuade (Pakistan) from acquiring nuclear weapons," said Tiwari.

Pressure

He said that if Pakistan goes ahead with its nuclear programme, the Indian government would be "under great internal public pressure to exercise its nuclear option."

He said that "in spite of all provocations, we have stuck to our decision not to go in for a nuclear weapons programme, but Pakistan has no programme except a weapons oriented programme."

Nuclear race

Tiwari reiterated the policy of developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, but said that India has not "ruled out the possibility" of joining the nuclear race if the country's security is threatened.

"This doesn't mean that we are rushing to produce nuclear weapons, but if our security system comes under pressure then any country would exercise all available options," he stressed.

Tiwari admitted India has the capability to produce nuclear weapons but has so far stuck to its programme of developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

In a wide-ranging, exclusive

(Continued on Page 2)



Tiwari

interview with the Arab Times, Tiwari said that India "always has friendly feelings" for Pakistan and does "everything to improve our relations" with Islamabad.

Glacier issue

Referring to the dispute over the Siachen Glacier with Pakistan, Tiwari stressed that any "bilateral dispute" should be settled through direct negotiations without resorting to "force or violence."

Tiwari said India has "no ambitions about playing the role of a regional power."

He said: "We want peace and stability in the region (sub-continent) without outside interference; we want to live in peace and we want a similar situation (to prevail in neighbouring countries)." He stressed that India is playing a "purely peacekeeping" role and will not deviate from its non-aligned policy.

Commenting on the alleged involvement of Pakistan in the troubled Indian state of Punjab, Tiwari said "concrete evidence" has been given to that country "and there is no question of allegations."

"We have given them (Pakistan) concrete evidence of their

(Continued on Page 2)



King Hussein and his wife, Queen Noor (left) greet Egypt's President and Mrs Mubarak at the king's private residence in England. (Reuters wirephoto)

Reagan to address UN General Assembly today

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 25, (AP): World leaders tomorrow begin three weeks of policy speeches to the UN General Assembly, with US President Reagan, a first-day speaker, expected to hail the world body's peacekeeping successes.

Also speaking tomorrow are heads of state, premiers or foreign ministers representing 10 other nations, including Brazil, Ghana, Finland, Norway and Singapore.

Reagan's farewell speech to the United Nations comes after nearly eight years during which he has pilloried the body for what he called anti-Western bias and bloated bureaucracy. The Reagan administration drove the United Nations to the brink of closure by withholding US dues, but Reagan had a change of heart this month.

Satisfaction

Reagan announced his satisfaction with the UN's progress in trimming its staff and budget on Sept. 13, and said America would pay more than a half-billion dollars in back dues to the United Nations in three to five years.

Reagan also called attention to the world body's success in

mediating the Afghan accords leading to a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the truce between Iran and Iraq.

Other major speakers this week include Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Tuesday, On Wednesday, HH the Amir of Kuwait addresses the assembly.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has cancelled his speech scheduled for Wednesday to protest the US State Department's delay in processing about half of the 60 visas for his delegation.

Plans

French President Mitterrand and Cameroon President Paul Biya speak on Thursday, and Sierra Leone's President Joseph Saidu Momoh takes the stand on Friday.

When Reagan speaks tomorrow, he will not be talking to the Security Council, the UN body that demanded the Iran-Iraq truce, or the UN diplomats who patiently put together peace plans for Namibia, the Western Sahara, Afghanistan, and Cambodia, and encouraged talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

Mubarak meets Hussein

LONDON, Sept. 25, (KUNA): President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt today conferred with Jordanian King Hussein at a luncheon in Berkshire's village of Ascot, southwest of here.

President Mubarak arrived here yesterday on a short visit on a European tour. King Hussein is on a private visit.

An Egyptian official said following the meeting that Egypt senses a positive spirit and an increased objective understanding by both Jordan and the PLO of the need to co-ordinate stances in light of recent developments, particularly Amman's decision to abandon legal and administrative relations with the occupied West Bank.

President Mubarak met in Cairo, before embarking on the European tour, with PLO chief Yasser Arafat, Mamdouh Al Beltaji, the Egyptian head of the authority of information told KUNA today.

The official stressed the importance of the Jordan-PLO co-ordination on the grounds that both need each other.

He said the Hussein-Mubarak talks covered developments in the area.

(Continued on Page 2)

Americans to protest Israeli brutality

AMMAN, Jordan, Sept. 25, (Agencies): A group of Americans claiming they had been harassed by Israeli authorities will protest to Washington about Israel's "brutality" against Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories, group member Bill Doares said today.

"We will protest to the US government to stop its financial contributions and weapons supply to Israel... since it is used in such brutality against Palestinians," Doares told the Associated Press in an interview.

The 33-year-old trade unionist from New York accused the Israeli authorities of "harassing" his six-member group while on a

visit to the occupied lands last week at the invitation of the San Francisco-based Palestine Solidarity Committee.

Israeli troops confiscated the Americans' passports in the West Bank town of Ramallah last Sunday, claiming they incited a Palestinian demonstration.

Passports

"We had in struggle with the (Israeli) authorities for one week to get our passports back," Doares said. They were given their passports back on Saturday and crossed into Jordan.

Doares said the Israeli authorities insisted that the group had to submit to interrogation, but they refused before having their

passports back.

"Why submit to questioning? We did not break the law... we were only observing a demonstration from a distance," Duares said.

He added that though their passports were returned to them yesterday following the intervention of the US State Department, "Israel told the press a lot of lies about us."

He said Israeli media reported that the group had "fled the police station while under detention and therefore the authorities decided to deport us."

Doares added that upon crossing the bridge over the Jordan River to enter the Kingdom of Jordan "Israeli police told us

that we were not welcomed to visit there again."

Troops wounded at least 27 Palestinians while dispersing weekend protests against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to Israeli and Palestinian sources today.

The fresh violence erupted after the death of 13-year-old Nahel Nu'man, a girl shot in the head by a plastic bullet. At least 280 Palestinians and six Israelis have died in the nine-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation.

The most violent weekend clashes in the occupied territories came in Nablus, largest Arab city in the West Bank.

Otto captures record six golds in swimming

SEOUL, Sept. 25, (Reuters): East German Kristin Otto clinched her sixth Olympic title when she won the 50 metres freestyle today, an unprecedented achievement by a woman.

Otto had already exceeded any other woman competitor by winning five golds at a single Games and she capped that by making it six in six events on the final day of the swimming programme.

Delayed

The 22-year-old Leipzig student clocked 25.49 seconds to win from Chinese world record-holder Wenyi Yang, who swam 25.64.

Fellow East German Katrin Meissner and American Jill Sterkel tied for third place in 25.71.

The race was delayed by two false starts — the first by Romanian world champion Tamara Costache and the second by Meissner.

Otto's other golds were in the 100 metres freestyle, backstroke and butterfly and freestyle and medley relays.

Soviet veteran Vladimir Salnikov pulled off a sensational victory in the 1,500 metres freestyle, clinching the gold medal eight years after he won the title the first time at the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Selzed

Salnikov, who reached the 1,500 final at his first Olympics as a 16-year-old in Montreal in 1976, returned at the ripe age of 28 to claim his second gold after missing the 1984 Los Angeles

Games because of the Soviet boycott.

Salnikov, world champion over 400 and 1,500 metres in 1978 and 1982, seized the lead from American Matt Cetlinski by the 700-metre mark and forged away to win in 15 minutes 0.40 seconds.

West German Stefan Pfeiffer came through for the silver in 15:02.69. East German Uwe Dassler, newly-crowned Olympic champion over 400 metres freestyle, also overhauled Cetlinski and claimed the bronze in 15:06.15.

Hungary

Fourteen-year-old Krisztina Egerszegi brought Hungary their second gold medal of the night, coming through from behind to win the 200 metres backstroke.

Egerszegi seized the lead from world champion Cornelia Sirch of East Germany on the third length and stretched away to win in 2:09.29.

Kathrin Zimmermann overtook compatriot Sirch in capture the silver in 2:10.61.

Sirch, bronze medalist in the 100 backstroke, took third place again in 2:11.45.

The United States set the 11th world swimming record of the Seoul Olympics in the 4x100 metres medley relay, last event of swimming programme.

Matt Biondi, who swam the butterfly leg, clinched his seventh medal in seven events — matching his performance in the 1986 world championships — and claimed his fifth in gold.

ARAB TIMES Grand Bingo

Miss Kavneet Sethi has won the First Full House prize. She will receive KD 100. Game No. 66 continues for the Second and Third Full Houses.

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بھارت میں ایچی بھٹو کے بھائی
افغان مجاہدین کی اقوام متحدہ
میں درخواست
اعلیٰ حضرت امیر کو کونیتی طلباء
سے خطاب
بھارتی پنجاب میں بارشوں
سے تباہی
پاکستان مجاہدین سے ملاؤں
برچکا کا
ترکی میں ریفریٹم
فیصل آباد میٹس میں بارشوں
کی سبب
لاہور میں اور ایکشن ۸۸

WEATHER

FAIR weather with light north-westerly wind.
State of sea: slight
High water: 12.00 noon, 12.00 mid-night
Low water: 6.00 am, 6.30 pm
Sunrise: 5.38 am
Sunset: 5.40 pm
Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 42°C 108°F
Ahmad: 37°C 99°F
Falkland: 37°C 99°F
Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 42°C 108°F
Ahmad: 37°C 99°F
Falkland: 37°C 99°F
Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 20 per cent
Ahmad: 20 per cent
Falkland: 30 per cent
Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 20 per cent
Ahmad: 20 per cent
Falkland: 30 per cent

INTERNATIONAL

Troops seal off Yerevan

Gorbachev vows not to tolerate lawlessness

MOSCOW, Sept. 25. (AP): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has issued his first statement on the escalation of violence between Christian Armenians and Muslim Azerbaijanis, vowing his government will not tolerate lawlessness.

"There must be order. Law must triumph," the 57-year-old Communist Party chief said in a warning published yesterday by the official news agency Tass.

"Can it be that someone will commit excesses, engage in arson and that we shall sit idle and sermonize? We shall not," said Gorbachev in the remarks he made earlier to media and cultural leaders.

Annexation

On Saturday, troops sealed off Yerevan, the capital of Armenia. But thousands of people rallied in the city's centre to demand the annexation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region in neighbouring Azerbaijan, an activist said.

Christian Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave in the mostly Muslim republic of Azerbaijan, began agitating for annexation by Armenia in February.

A television news report last evening showed troops with submachine guns patrolling Stepanakert, chief city of Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Troops are checking all



Gorbachev

entrances and exits to the city and armoured personnel carriers are stationed there," Hovik Vassilyan, reported in a telephone interview from Yerevan.

Patrolled

In Yerevan, soldiers and tanks also patrolled streets where government and Communist Party offices are located, said Vassilyan, editor of an unsanctioned Armenian nationalist journal.

He said troops, deployed on Wednesday, were not allowing pedestrians or vehicles on those streets.

As they have for a week, tens of thousands of people rallied yesterday in Yerevan's central square and vowed to continue a general strike until Oct. 7, Vassilyan said.

But the walkout, which began Sept. 16, was tapering off. Vassilyan said public transportation began operating on Friday and was near normal yesterday.

Another Yerevan activist, Rafael Popoyan, predicted the government would meet demonstrators' demands that it reconsider annexing Nagorno-Karabakh.

Solidarity

"I don't think it's going to end any time soon. The strike will continue," Popoyan said in a telephone interview.

The 20-member presidium of the supreme Soviet, Armenia's highest executive body, expressed solidarity with Armenians' concern about the tense situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. But the presidium also backed the official policy of the central government, which rejected annexation.

Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, who claim discrimination by native Azerbaijanis and central authorities turned the plan down. Ethnic rioting in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait left 32 people dead in February.

Globe-peddalling Indian cyclists leave for Egypt

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Sept. 25. (AP): Two Indian cyclists, pedalling around the world to promote "peace and brotherhood," began a journey to Egypt today after a stop-over in this Red Sea port.

The cyclists are Sriyans Kumar Jain, 29, and Taher Salehbbay Madraswalla, 26.

Before their departure, Jain told reporters: "If we all join, we can transform this dream of peace and brotherhood into a reality."

Jain and Madraswalla come from the western Indian city of Ahmedabad, which has been the scene of sectarian violence in recent years.

The bachelor duo began their expedition on Feb. 2, 1987, in Bombay. They have travelled on their bicycles some 17,500 kilometres through Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Djibouti, North Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

From Egypt, they plan to travel into Europe, hoping to complete their globe-peddalling trip by 1992.

Syria rejects Aoun's cabinet

(Continued from Page 1)

Damascus to support his claim that his cabinet is the legitimate government.

Al Hoss's cabinet is all that remains of a national government under Gemayel, a Maronite. But that administration, fractured along sectarian lines, rarely even consulted with him and had not held a full session for years.

The Muslim leaders threatened to declare a breakaway state in territory controlled by their militias if Gemayel handed over power to a Christian-led cabinet.

Edmond Naim, Governor of the Central Bank based in west Beirut, today announced neutrality in the cabinet squabble.

Naim, a Maronite, said he would pay the salaries of civil servants and the Army in Muslim and Christian areas alike and meet payments for fuel needed to keep Lebanon's erratic power supply from collapsing completely.

Unease

Most offices, banks, shops, and restaurants closed down in both the Muslim and Christian halves of the capital Beirut, reflecting widespread unease at living under rival governments for the first time.

Many people said they delayed decisions involving travel, business and marriage to await the outcome of the presidential election, which never took place. Now they were at a loss.

5 killed in Karachi gunbattles

KARACHI, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Five people were killed in gunbattles in Karachi today when police swooped to make arrests after an earlier shoot-out between rival video cassette shop owners, doctors and police said.

A government statement said troops imposed a curfew in the area and police said one constable was among the dead. Four people were killed on Friday in shooting sparked by a quarrel between the video shop owners over the alleged use of immoral films.

The latest gunfight broke out when police arrested more than 20 people in connection with Friday's clashes, residents said. Hospital doctors said they had received the bodies of four civilians killed in today's shooting.



Hortensia Bussi, the widow of former Socialist President Salvador Allende (right) talks to reporters after her return to Chile. (Reuters wirephoto)

Company may seek FDA approval of abortion drug

NEWARK, New Jersey, Sept. 25. (AP): A New Jersey company is considering seeking US Food and Drug Administration permission to begin testing a French-made drug that induces abortions early in pregnancy, a scientist said.

Gynopharma Inc. of Somerville had been awaiting the results of French government tests before applying for permission to market the drug in the United States, Dr Gary Hogden, an expert in reproductive medicine, told the New York Times.

The French government on Friday authorized use of RU 486, or mifepristone, an anti-hormone chemical that interrupts pregnancy by blocking the implantation of a fertilized egg on the uterine wall. It must be administered by the 49th day following the last menstrual period.

Strategies

Hogden, scientific director of the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine at the Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia, said in yesterday's edition of "The Times" that he has discussed marketing strategies with executives from the French manufacturer, Roussel Uclaf Co.

He said FDA approval would mean the drug could be manufactured in the United States under a licensing agreement between the two companies.

Roderick MacKenzie, chairman of Gynopharma, said the company is "in the business of looking at all gynaecological products," according to the newspaper.

MacKenzie would neither confirm nor deny the company's intentions regarding RU 486. The Associated Press could not reach him for comment yesterday.

Political march

BELGRADE, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Tens of thousands of Yugoslavs have defied Communist Party leaders by staging the country's biggest political demonstration and plan new ones today despite pleas to stop them.

An estimated 150,000 rallied yesterday in the south Serbian town of Nis. Over 20,000 gathered in Vrsac and Bela Crkva, in Serbia's northern autonomous province of Vojvodina.

Allende's widow returns home

SANTIAGO, Chile, Sept. 25. (AP): Salvador Allende's widow returned home yesterday for the first time since the Marxist President was deposed and died in a 1973 coup. Thousands cheered as she drove through a working-class neighbourhood.

Later yesterday, an estimated 100,000 people massed peacefully at an opposition rally.

"I don't bring rancor or a spirit of revenge," Hortensia Bussi de Allende said when she arrived with a daughter, Carmen Paz, on a commercial flight from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Her return yesterday came 23 days after military President Augusto Pinochet, who is pursuing a new eight-year term in an Oct 5 referendum, ended the official exile of 504 leftists, including Mrs Allende and her children.

President Allende died in the 1973 military coup that swept Pinochet into power.

Opposition political groups are campaigning for Gen. Pinochet's defeat in the referendum.

"Thousands gathered on the outskirts of Santiago for performances yesterday by two leftist folk music groups, Inti Ilumani and Ilapu, once exiled by the right-wing government.

The opposition rally was

organised by a group called Independents for the No Vote, led by lawyer Alejandro Hales.

Hales told the crowd that after the referendum "a new future for the country will be born and a black page in Chile's history will be left behind."

"Democracy and liberty are near," Hales declared.

Mrs Allende did not attend the rally.

Cheered

Earlier, thousands cheered Mrs Allende as her motorcade from the suburban airport entered the city. She vowed to support the opposition campaign.

"We want a Chile where the rights of man will be fully respected," Mrs Allende said. "Our message is not fear but hope, not hate but joy. It is not the past, but the future, that we will build together."

The silver-haired, 74-year-old widow's voice broke as she recalled the death of another daughter, Beatriz, who committed suicide six years ago in Havana, Cuba.

"My daughter, Beatriz, who like so many other Chileans loved her fatherland, never saw it again," Mrs Allende said.

A third daughter, Isabel, returned to Chile on Sept. 1, hours after Pinochet decreed an end to all official exile.

Anglican church faces divisions

American elected as first woman bishop

LONDON, Sept. 25. (Reuters): The Anglican church faced itself today for major divisions after the election of the first woman bishop in the 70-million-strong world communion.

The Reverend Barbara Harris, 58, a black American, was elected assistant bishop for the Eastern Massachusetts diocese by a special diocesan convention of the US Episcopal church.

Although Anglican bishops paved the way for the consecration of women at their 10-yearly Lambeth Palace conference last month, many traditionalist churchmen bitterly oppose the idea.

Each individual province of the Anglican communion is independent. But the implications of one area's policy for another are strong because some bishops are threatening to refuse to recognise the authority of a woman.

Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, spiritual leader of the community, said in a

statement today the election would have far-reaching consequences for Anglicanism and its relationship with other churches.

He pledged to work to preserve unity as the church grappled with the election's implications and urged the church of England to respect the move.

"For the moment, it is not for individuals to make declarations about whether they are in or out of communion with her or the episcopal church," Runcie said. "Such a matter is determined by the dual process of the church, not by private judgement."

But Bishop of London Graham Leonard said the consecration of a woman bishop would cause divisions in the Anglican communion.

"In common with many other bishops, I would be unable to recognise a woman bishop of the validity of any ordinations or confirmations performed by her," he said in a statement.

India may join nuclear race

(Continued from Page 1)

involvement in organising camps, imparting training and allowing them (separatists) free entry into Pakistan. It is not a question of mere allegations, concrete proof has also been given to Pakistan's friends," he said.

Tiwari said that "in the interests of friendly relations" between neighbours, Pakistan must refrain from "direct interference in our internal affairs."

Tiwari expressed hopes of normalcy returning to strife-torn Sri Lanka saying "the process has begun and conditions have been created." But he did not say when the peacekeeping forces would withdraw from Sri Lanka. He said: "Withdrawal (of peacekeeping forces) depends on the situation in Sri Lanka. India would leave 'as soon as the Sri Lankan government feels that our role is no more required,'" he said.

Tiwari said the UN negotiated ceasefire in the eight-year-old Gulf war has "strengthened the United Nations system." He said India was confident that when the stalled Gulf peace talks resume in New York "face to face discussions will lead to a durable, just and comprehensive solution."

He described the deadlock in the peace talks as a minor hurdle. "The war has lasted eight years, one or two encounters cannot yield dramatic results," he said.

Gulf peace

Tiwari said that "both countries (Iran-Iraq) realise that peace is beneficial not only for them but also for the entire region." He was confident that peace and stability would return to the region as stipulated by the UN Resolution 598.

Tiwari said a joint economic commission from India would hold talks with its Iraqi counterpart to explore India's role in post-war reconstruction. India, he said, will provide assistance (for reconstruction programmes) as and when required.

Diplomats based in Iraq expect the Indian would offer assistance to Iraq. India's aid to Iraq is over \$100 million. India's aid to Iraq is over \$100 million. India's aid to Iraq is over \$100 million.

"We've had no time to identify spheres of economic co-operation with Iran but will offer assistance if required."

Afghan issue

Commenting on the Afghan issue, Tiwari said there is an urgent need to deter the peace process in that country. "It is important that all parties concerned implement the accord faithfully and honestly so that Afghanistan can emerge as an independent, non-aligned and sovereign nation."

Kabul has accused Pakistan for allegedly supplying weapons and assistance to the mujahedeen. Tiwari said "Afghan authorities and other parties have clearly indicated who the parties (involved in violations) were, if we want genuine peace, conditions conducive for the withdrawal of Soviet forces must be created."

Pakistan has denied involvement. During the eight-year Afghan crisis, India was a silent observer but started playing an active diplomatic role in the region after the signing of the Geneva accord in April.

Floods hit Punjab and Haryana

AMRITSAR, India, Sept. 25. (UPI): The downpours continued for the fourth straight day in Punjab, and swelled the state's three main rivers — the Ravi, Beas and Sutlej — to record levels, inundating about 250 villages and destroying homes, crops and livestock, officials said.

The downpours, however, stopped in neighbouring Haryana and Himachal Pradesh states.

Officials said that at least 32 people died in the collapse of homes or drowned in raging floodwaters in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

Pushed The fresh deaths pushed to at least 80 the number of people killed in weather-related incidents since rains began lashing the two states and Haryana on Thursday.

In Punjab, Army and Air Force personnel were called in to support civilian authorities in distributing relief supplies and rescuing thousands of people stranded by flood waters that reached as high as 10 feet (3 m) in some places, officials said.

Thousands march to protest IMF meeting in W. Berlin

BERLIN, Sept. 25. (AP): Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched today under heavy police security to protest the Third World debt policies followed by finance chiefs and bankers meeting in West Berlin.

The demonstrators from Europe, Latin America and Asia poured into the city's main streets to protest the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Misery

Some chanted, "IMF-murder fund" and "IMF and World Bank must go." Others carried banners, saying, "the profits of IMF are the misery of the Third World, and there must be no more people who starve from hunger."

Another banner showed a banker taking dollar bills from the ribs of a starving peasant.

The turnout was one of the largest in West Berlin. Organisers of the demonstration estimated the crowd at 55,000. Police put the number at about 30,000.

A convoy of 15 vans filled with police officers led the protesters

on their route. Hundreds of other police, many with riot shields and truncheons, lined the way. About 2,700 police were brought in for the event.

Enormous

The 151-nation IMF has been key in fashioning financial rescue programmes for developing nations that have been strapped in recent years with enormous foreign debts. The World Bank, its sister organisation, offers these countries aid for economic development programmes.

About 10,000 police have been guarding the city during the meetings, expected to draw 12,000 financial officials, bankers and journalists. The discussions began last Thursday and will run through Sept. 29.

"Nobody expected there to be this many people," said march organiser. "There are members of the Catholic church who are here marching with communists. That is quite an achievement."

The march began on Kurfuerstendamm, West Berlin's main boulevard, and was expected to wind up with a rally about a kilometre (a half mile) from the international congress centre

where the financial officials were meeting.

Police ordered several dozen protesters to remove ski masks from their faces. Police have banned the masks which they consider a provocation during protests.

Searched

Before the march began, police stopped some demonstrators and asked for identification cards and searched their bags.

The mostly young crowd was in good spirits. Some carried children on their shoulders. Activists in West Berlin said police this week have searched houses, buses and subways, making at least 30 detentions.

"I know of eight houses or apartments that were searched, and have heard there were others," said an activist who helped organize the demonstration. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

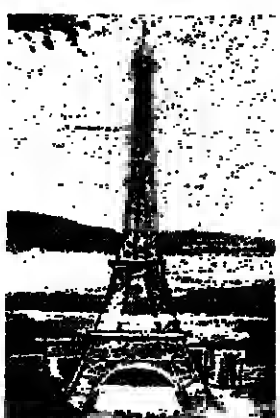
Fears of violence in West Berlin were heightened by the Sept. 20 Red Army ambush in Bonn of a high-ranking West German Finance Ministry official, Hans Tietmeyer.

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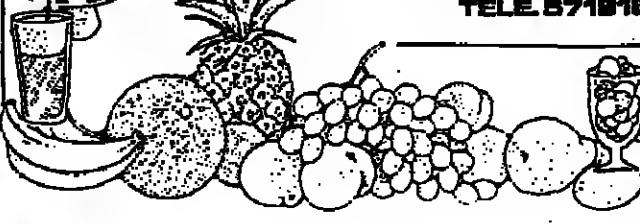
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Ozal faces defeat in referendum

ANKARA, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Millions of Turks voted today in a referendum likely to undermine the political future of Western-oriented Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

Ozal faces defeat in a poll which seeks to change a minor article of the constitution but amounts to a vote of confidence in his leadership and free-wheeling economic policies which have pushed inflation up to 78 per cent.

Only 10 months after returning to office with a big majority in parliament, Ozal has said he may quit politics if he does not win enough "yes" votes in the poll.

"I am optimistic, I am optimistic," declared the 60-year-old conservative leader after voting in the capital's Cankaya area.

Heavy turnouts were reported at polling stations across Turkey from Mediterranean shores to remote borders with the Soviet Union, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Public opinion polls indicated the result of the referendum, which aims to bring local elections forward to November from March next year, might be 2-1 against Ozal.

It will be decided on a simple "yes" or "no" from 26.6 million Turks, who must vote by law.

Ozal, who has promoted wider democracy in Turkey and closer ties with the West since becoming leader in 1983, has not spelt out the minimum percentage of "yes" votes he wants to stay on.

Political sources believed it was 32-33 per cent.

Percentage

His ruling Motherland Party, a factionalised party embracing people from the religious right to Western-trained liberals, won 36.5 per cent of the vote in last November's general election.

The referendum vote will answer a major question. Has Ozal, who had heart surgery in 1987 and survived an assassination attempt last June, lost some of the magic he wielded over predominantly Muslim Turkey's 54 million people?

After five years as the dominant political figure able to sway voters with televised speeches, a tired-looking Ozal repeated familiar pledges—to lower inflation and build more roads—during an emotional final address on Saturday.

25 die every day in Sudanese town

KHARTOUM, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Rain has lashed Malakal for two months, no food has arrived for seven months and at least 25 people starve to death every day in the town in southern Sudan.

The little food left is selling at prices beyond the reach of most of the impoverished residents.

This account of the plight of Malakal was given today by the governor of Upper Nile province, Ret Chok Jok, who had just returned to Khartoum from the town 700 km (440 miles) to the south.

Supplies

"It rained virtually continuously throughout the two months I have been there," he told Reuters. "Almost 90 per cent of the crops grown in and around Malakal have been destroyed."

Jok said entire sections of the town were deserted as residents fled for shelter. Torrents of water had damaged many homes and almost all schools and clinics.

This account was the first since

a member of Sudan's presidential supreme council reported 350 people died of starvation during a one-week visit earlier this month.

The situation is a microcosm of disaster spreading through several southern towns cut off from the food supplies which the world has poured into Sudan to help fight the worst floods and famine this century in Africa's biggest and poorest country.

The hungry towns are isolated by rain, floods and civil war. Relief workers and refugees say scores, perhaps hundreds, of people are dying of hunger across the south daily.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has renewed a long-standing threat—which it has carried out in the past—to shoot down any aircraft flying south without permission.

The fighting has forced at least three million southern Sudanese out of their homes in search of food and safety in northern Sudan, Ethiopia or Uganda.

New Delhi talks aimed at finding durable solution

Ershad, Rajiv to discuss flood control

DHAKA, Sept. 25. (Agencies): Bangladesh President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi planned to meet on Tuesday in New Delhi to discuss flood control, a Foreign Ministry official said today.

The talks follow summer flooding that at its worst inundated three-fourths of Bangladesh four weeks ago. The water came from monsoon-swollen rivers that enter Bangladesh from neighbouring India.

More than 1,000 died in the flood, according to the government, whose count is generally considered low. Daily fatalities in Dhaka newspapers put the toll at more than 2,000.

The Foreign Ministry official said Ershad and Rajiv would discuss several matters of mutual interest, including "a permanent solution to the floods."

"The flood was caused by gushing rain and mountain waters from three major Indian rivers, the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna. It's only natural to involve India to find a permanent solution to the curse that visits Bangladesh annually," he said.

Bangladesh, an impoverished, low-lying nation, is surrounded

by India on the west, north and east, except for a small strip of border that abuts Burma. The nation is traversed by the rivers and their tributaries, which empty into the Bay of Bengal on Bangladesh's southern end.

Meeting

Ershad also has asked for a meeting between government officials of India, China, Bhutan and Nepal to consider flood prevention measures with Bangladesh.

"Three of the five countries have already expressed their willingness to sit together to discuss the matter," the Foreign Ministry official said. He declined to identify the nations.

A senior Asian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said India had made "a positive response" about such a meeting.

Part of the flood problem stems from rapid deforestation of slopes in India and Nepal, making the area less able to retain water. It also has resulted in the silting of rivers in Bangladesh, raising the river beds and making it easier for flood waters to spill over the banks.

The floods spawned criticism of India, prompting accusations that the situation has grown



Ershad: uneasy

worse because India opens water control gates just across the border.

Huge wall writings appeared in Dhaka today that read "Destroy Farakka barrage, the woe of Bangladesh."

India has denied that its Farakka water project, constructed on the Ganges in the early 1970s, is responsible for the floods.

Protests

Meanwhile, supporters of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party marched through Dhaka today in protest at the closure of relief camps for those



Rajiv: response

made homeless by floods that killed around 2,600 people.

"Don't force them to die by shutting down the relief camps and taking away their shelter," shouted one marcher.

The government has closed 193 camps housing 650,000 people and officials said most of the remaining 1,500 relief camps in the country would also be closed soon.

Latest government figures show the floods earlier this month, the worst this century, drowned 1,600 people in this poverty-stricken nation of 110 million.

A further 600 died of diarrhoea attributable to the floods covering three-quarters of the country, and 400 died after being bitten by snakes swept along in the deluge, officials said.

State television said the camps, which operated for about 10 days, were being closed because floodwaters had receded and many people had gone back to their areas to rebuild their homes. The camps were also needed for other purposes.

Shelters

Nationalist Party chief Begum Khaleda Zia, who led the march, said it would be inhuman to throw the victims out of the camps until the government provided alternative shelters.

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad has promised the government would not let anyone die of starvation.

"You say you will not let them die, and yet do something by which their death by starvation becomes inevitable," Begum Zia told a wayside rally.

Overseas donors have pledged \$280 million in aid to Bangladesh, but Ershad has asked for more.

Relief officials said they were already running short of food and medicine in some areas.

Tamils refuse to give up struggle

VAJUNIA, Sri Lanka, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Sri Lanka's main Tamil separatist group will never give up its armed struggle until minority Tamils get full rights on the island, a guerrilla leader said.

The Vavuniya commander of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), known only as Dinesh, said in an interview with Reuters that a ceasefire by Indian soldiers in Sri Lanka was a mere propaganda bluff.

"We are not greedy on the weapons and neither are we violent. We have the weapons to fight for a cause. Until our cause is fulfilled we'll not give up our arms," he said at a Tiger hideout in this northern district.

He spoke hours before a 10-day truce was ended by about 52,000 Indian soldiers based in the island's north and east to implement an Indian-Sri Lankan pact against the Tamil separatist revolt.

Blast injures 10 Pakistanis

PESHAWAR, Sept. 25. (AP): A bomb exploded aboard a passenger bus parked at a busy terminal today, injuring 10 people, police said.

Police said the bus had just arrived at Peshawar's general bus stand from the central Pakistani city of Multan when the bomb went off next to the driver's seat as passengers were leaving.

One passenger, a cleaner, was seriously injured, the police said. All but two of the 10 injured were hospitalised.

No one claimed responsibility, but authorities generally blame such acts on agents of neighbouring Afghanistan's communist government. Pakistani officials repeatedly have accused Afghanistan of trying to destabilise Pakistan because of its backing of Muslim rebels fighting the Kabul government.

Dozens of bombings in Pakistan have killed more than 300 people and injured hundreds more since 1985.

Afghan rebel government seeking UN recognition

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 25. (Reuters): The head of an "interim government" set up by Afghan rebels based in Pakistan asked the United Nations yesterday to recognise it as sole representative of Afghanistan.

The letter, from the government's Prime Minister, Ahmad Shah, asking UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to put his request to the General Assembly—was released in Islamabad.

But a spokesman for one rebel party dismissed it as a personal initiative by Shah and said it had not been discussed by leaders of the seven-party rebel alliance.

Shah said official recognition of his government would pave the way for its membership in the United Nations, where the

Soviet-backed Kabul administration currently holds a seat.

Shah also criticised UN Afghan mediator Diego Cordovez, saying his proposal for a broad-based neutral administration acceptable to both sides was illegal and cruel.

Cordovez said on Sept 15 that he had a list of 30 prominent, respected Afghans who might head such an interim government, to rule until after Soviet troops complete their withdrawal on Feb 15.

Afghan sources said Shah's message was intended as a response to Cordovez's remarks, which have angered hardliners among the rebels.

Shah comes from the headline "Islamist" wing of the rebel alliance, which is against any

compromise with Kabul.

But a spokesman for the Mahaz-e-Milli-e-Islami party, which is on the moderate wing and takes a more favourable view of Cordovez's efforts, criticised Shah's move.

"These kind of things are harmful for our cause," he said. "We don't want to become the object of ridicule."

"He (Shah) and his backers are against UN efforts for peace in Afghanistan, yet at the same time they apply for recognition," he said.

The rebels' "interim government" was set up by the alliance to take over and supervise elections after the fall of the current Kabul administration. But it has yet to be officially recognised by any country.

Amnesty to stage rock show in India

NEW DELHI, Sept. 25. (AP):

They've never seen Michael Jackson but do a pretty good imitation of his signature dance step, moon-walking. For Indian fans of Western rock music, the Beatles are a cult and Elvis is still alive.

Few major Western singers have toured India, but that hasn't stopped thousands of Indians from becoming hooked on rock 'n' roll.

On Sept. 30, about 70,000 lucky fans in India will get what they have long awaited a chance to go to a concert for live, world-class Western music.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International is bringing to New Delhi a tour featuring Bruce Springsteen, Sting and Tracy Chapman.

It is part of a world-wide Amnesty campaign to promote the 40th anniversary of the universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"This is the biggest show to reach Southeast Asia," said Anil Gupta, an organiser of the concert, to be staged at open-air Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

"It's the first time music's megastars are playing in the region."

Seventy-thousand tickets are on sale.

The last internationally known groups to perform in India were Boney M and Osibisa in the early 1980s.

But cassettes of Western music sell by the hundreds every day in the shops of major Indian cities. Letters pour into Western music section of the government-owned radio station, which runs at least three weekly request programmes from New Delhi and other big cities.

"I hear music from every house when I return home at night," says Roque, pronounced "Rocky," Fernandes, drummer and leader of a band playing New Delhi's top hotels and restaurants.

"It's mostly beat music played on loud stereos. But there's almost no Hindi music to be heard," he said.

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250 Kuwaiti students meet Amir in New York

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (KUNA): For many of some 250 Kuwaiti students in America, it was the chance of a lifetime: HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, threw them a party in the sumptuous surroundings of their country's mission to the United Nations.

"My friends back home will die of envy," one student told KUNA.

The Amir has made it a tradition to meet with Kuwaiti students attending colleges and universities abroad.

Those invited to the luncheon came mostly from the greater New York and Boston areas.

All of them were at John F. Kennedy International Airport on Friday when the Amir arrived via special flight from Paris to attend the United Nations General Assembly this week.

"I have been living in Kuwait most of my life, but this is the first time I've come even close to the Amir," said Khaled Al Asfoor, a 21-year-old computer engineering student at Boston University.

Excited
Hameed Ebraheem, 24, was elated, too. A student of electrical engineering at the Polytechnic Institute of New York, Ebraheem said he was very excited, and Abdul Aziz Mohamad, 24, a political science major at Monmouth College in New Jersey, was equally thrilled.

Hamad Alomeiri, 22, who studies industrial engineering at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, said it was the first time he's ever been so close to the Amir.

"I've seen him at home on television, but I never thought I would have the good luck of rubbing shoulders with him in New York," he said.

Sacrifice
The Kuwaiti Ambassador, Mohammad A. Abulhassan, provided a relaxed atmosphere at the mission which opened only two years ago.

Other dignitaries at the party included the 10 members of the official Kuwaiti delegation, including Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed and Sheikh Saud Nasser Saud, Kuwait's ambassador to the United States in Washington.

At one point during the luncheon, the Amir walked towards the students in the crowded reception area, with the glaring Kuwait Television lights following his every move.

Jaber Mohamad Al Minifi, president of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students, said the Amir told the students that he objected to their telling him on Friday at the airport they would be ready "in sacrifice their souls and blood for Abu Mubarek" (biruh, biddam, nifdik ya Abu Mubarek).

Reputation
"You should sacrifice your soul and blood to Kuwait as a country and Islam as a religion, not to a man," Minifi, who stood close by during the brief encounter, said paraphrasing the Amir. Minifi apologised on behalf of the students, saying their words were expressing their feelings towards His Highness. "They didn't mean anything harmful,"

Minifi told the Amir.

On the other hand, Minifi said the Amir expressed his satisfaction about the good reputation the students enjoy, and he asked them to continue upholding the country's reputation and stay away from temptations.

"Remember, you are all ambassadors of Kuwait here," Minifi quoted the Amir as saying.

Another student, Hajrav Al Hajrav, asked the Amir to provide government funds for renting a place of worship in upstate New York.

Al Hajrav said the students are now paying for such a place out of their own pockets.

When the Amir asked the students to list all their complaints, Kuwait's cultural attaché in Washington, Dr M'saed Al Haroun, told His Highness that Minifi, the student leader, had already prepared a list of suggestions.

HH the Amir will visit New York's Islamic Cultural Centre this afternoon to lay the minaret's cornerstone and plant the first tree in the courtyard.

Following a recitation from the Holy Quran, Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammad A. Abulhassan, the centre's chairman of the board of trustees, will welcome the Amir, the Secretary-General of the 42-member Organisation of Islamic Conference, foreign ministers of Islamic states as well as many other dignitaries.

The huge mosque will be the spiritual home to New York's 400,000 Muslims and is scheduled to open next June.



Acting Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Faisal Al Mutawa (second from right) is shown at a farewell reception at the Foreign Ministry offices in honour of the ambassador of North Yemen, Saeed M. Al Hakimi (second left) and Tadakiyo Nomura of Japan (extreme left) at the end of their tenures in Kuwait.

Municipality to provide toilets along highways

By Lima Al Khalafawi

KUWAIT Municipality is planning to erect a number of public toilets for the convenience of highway drivers.

The municipality already supervises about 15 toilets at various locations in Kuwait, seven inside Kuwait City, two in Jaleeb Al Shiyukh and another six on the Coastal Front Project.

The sanitary maintenance of these facilities has been awarded to a private cleaning company according to new cleanliness contracts.

Speaking to the Arab Times, the director of the public cleaning department at Kuwait Municipality, Issa Al Kandari, said the municipality inspectors check up on the work of the cleaning company to ensure that these facilities are hygienically well-maintained. In some crowded areas inside Kuwait City working hours at these facilities were extended, he added.

Scarcity
However, several people have complained about the shortage of these facilities. They also say the lack of supervision has turned the toilets into garbage centres where rats and rodents seek refuge, they said.

These facilities in and around Kuwait consist of single rooms for men and women. The scarcity of toilets results in men using facilities reserved for women. This embarrassing scenario inhibits women from even approaching the toilets.

The majority of the public who use these facilities are petitioning the municipality to increase the number of these facilities, especially in heavily frequented areas such as Khaitan and Safat.

Ministry reiterates concern for students

THE Kuwaiti General Secondary Certificate has been designed to qualify Kuwaiti students for admission to any university in the world, the Undersecretary at the Ministry of Education, Abdurrahman Al Khudari, said. In an interview with a local

daily, Al Khudari said that the Ministry pays particular attention to the welfare of students. Discussing budget adjustments, he said these changes are meant for optimum utilisation of human and financial resources.

Speaking of tuition fees at private schools, Al Khudari said that the government's decision this year to increase fees was made after serious deliberations. However, the increase was optional and the school could opt to adapt the increase on a partial or total basis, he said.

Discussing another matter, the official said the transfer of teaching staff was aimed at bridging the gaps in some schools and bringing about a balanced teacher-student system.

West German defence official visits S. Arabia

JEDDAH, Sept 25, (AP): Saudi Arabian Defence Minister Prince Sultan conferred today with West German Deputy Defence Minister Lothar Rucht on bilateral relations, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

The agency did not elaborate on the talks, but said Rucht's Saudi counterpart, Othman Al Hameed attended the meeting. Earlier in the day, the agency reported that Rucht toured the Air Force Academy in Jiddah as well as the King Faisal Naval Base on the Red Sea.

Rucht arrived late Saturday at the start of a 5-day visit to the kingdom. Diplomatic sources said they expected Rucht to discuss the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia, but did not elaborate on what he will propose.

A German delegation visited Saudi Arabia last year to investigate selling German submarines to the kingdom.

Saudi donation to Jordan

AMMAN, Sept 25, (AP): Saudi Arabia has donated \$59.5 million to Jordan, the secretary-general of Jordan's Finance Ministry said today.

Abdul Majid Qassem Amin said a similar donation was made in July, in accordance with an Arab summit resolution granting financial assistance to Arab states in confrontation with Israel.

Ministry reconsidering physicians' allowances

THE assistant undersecretary for technical affairs at the Ministry of Public Health, Dr Tareq Al Abdul Jader, has said that the ministry is reconsidering its physicians' allowances.

He added that the ministry intends to reduce the differences between the allowances for hospital physicians and those for physicians at health centres.

Hospital physicians work in more difficult circumstances because of the large number of patients, he said. The ministry will divide physicians into two categories instead of the present four.

Grow
Commenting on the distribution of health services in different housing areas, Al Abdul Jader said that there are some areas, such as Farwaniya and Addan, which grow, whilst others, like Ahmadi, remain static in population terms.

Increased numbers of people in new housing areas cause confusion and pressure on health centres, and in some cases the ministry is obliged to refer patients to other health centres for treatment until a new health centre is established.

The ministry will open a health centre in Sabahiya and another in the South Ardhhiya area. According to plans, there will be one physician for every 3,000 people.

The ministry is still suffering from manpower shortages, but is not lacking in infrastructure. The Civil Service Commission has allowed the Ministry of Health to appoint physicians, nurses and technicians in place of those who resign, but not to appoint new employees.

Dr Al Abdul Jader said that co-ordination is weak for patients who are referred from health centres in hospitals. Physicians of the hospital are instructed to fill a two-copy medical report for each patient referred from the health centre. One copy should be returned to the health centre. However, the system is not being strictly followed, he said.

Commenting on the new health registration system, he said a special file is created for each patient at his area. Patients who are treated at centres without their files are violators and along with the physician could be penalised, he added.

Nigeria revises policies to encourage investors

THE Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Kuwait, recognising the vital role of private investment in the economic growth of Nigeria, has announced a Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP).

As part of a revised Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree, foreigners are permitted to own up to 80 per cent equity in capital intensive or highly technical spheres of activity.

Additionally, consideration is being given to foreign investors owning 100 per cent equity in the Export Free Zone.

A new Industrial Develop-

ment Co-ordinating Department (IDCD) — a one-stop agency that will process all industrial licences has been established.

The introduction of a market determined exchange rate, easy access to foreign exchange, abolition of import licences, free guarantee of repatriation of profits and dividends, generous fees for consultancy, royalties and technical management services are incentives investors are expected to find attractive.

Citizens of friendly countries are assured that in the event of socio-political changes affecting their investments, the repatriation of the imported capital element is guaranteed.

Kuwaiti boy killed

A YOUNG Kuwaiti boy was killed by another Kuwaiti national in Ahmadi City last Thursday.

The 17-year-old assailant and his victim were friends, but they had an argument, which developed into a fight, during which the young boy was stabbed in the abdomen. The victim's 15-year-old brother was also injured in the incident.

The assailant was arrested and admitted killing the boy.

British general to visit Kuwait

THE Master General of the Ordnance of the British Armed Forces, General Sir John Stibbon, will visit Kuwait from Sept 26 to 27. He will hold talks with the Minister of Defence, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed and senior Kuwaiti military officials and Defence Ministry officials. The talks will cover points of mutual interest in the defence field.

Get a closer look at Mars



This picture of Mars was taken last Thursday.

MARS, the Earth's cosmic neighbour, will get closer to our planet on Tuesday night when the two members of the solar system and the sun line up to form a straight angle, according to the director of Al Wafra Observatory, Abdul Hadi Maarafi.

He told KUNA that by Tuesday night Mars would fully face the Earth and be of glittering reddish bright hue.

At this stage the Earth and Mars would be only 59 million kilometres apart, their closest encounter since 1971 when they were only 56.2 million kilometres apart, said Maarafi.

Saudis plan island resort

RIYADH, Sept 25, (Reuters): Saudi businessmen plan to build a \$1.5 billion leisure resort on a Red Sea island to be linked to the mainland by monorail, industry sources said today.

Plans for the island, 40 km (25 miles) north of the Jeddah Port, include restaurants, an underwater hotel and a Disney-style theme park and aquarium.



Participants in a sales training seminar at the Hotel Meridien Kuwait are shown with Guy Dano of the International Institute of the Meridien chain along with Andreas Matmuller and Fahd Abushar. The seminar was for the sales department of the Meridien in Kuwait and Al Khobar.

WARNING



1. Kudungara Abo, Indian national, passport No. E 239565



2. Mohammad Jamil Mohd Bashir, Pakistani national, passport No. AK 634109



3. Bahadur Singh Rajput, Indian national, passport No. M 338243

The above-named personnel were terminated under article 55 (e) of Kuwait Labour Law while their residence permits are still under Al Mulla Group's sponsorship.

We warn anybody who hides or employs them of legal consequences. Anyone knowing of their whereabouts is requested to notify the nearest police station or contact telephone Nos. 4818685, 4818718, 4815077, ext. 609.

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EVENTS

INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

A touch of realism

By Fathima Ahmed

FOR a fleeting moment one feels that Sagar Sangam belongs to the lost and found category. The impression doesn't last long as director Dulal Guha covers a familiar theme with a touch of realism.

The question is: will truth prevail? Guha believes it does. To prove his point Guha's script weaves a complex web of circumstances, some familiar, others not so familiar.

Destiny is the key factor. What has to happen will happen, no matter how hard you work to avoid it. This belief is firmly interpreted in Guha's carefully thought-out script.

Guha could have gone overboard in trying to make the point, but he doesn't. Clever application of dramatic license does the trick, evoking pathos, even sympathy for the characters embroiled in a fight against destiny, trying to overcome the hurdles bravely.

Ambitions of greed, power and lust are played up to keep alive evil, poverty and suffering. Yet, good triumphs over evil, despite the connivance of the powers that be to crush whatever values that still survive the onslaught of change.

An ordinary story of Ganga's dilemma becomes socially valid as Guha lamely blames the society for creating criminals. "Can you reform people by sending them to jail?" asks Gopi, expelled from the city for beating up a policeman. Such pertinent questions are pushed in subtly for dramatic effect. By transforming a God-fearing man into a notorious criminal Guha makes a point: he was good, circumstances changed him. True, but debatable. Yet, there is no overt self-pity, just complacent acceptance tinged with fury as the godman turns to crime.

Durgahatna

Sagar Sangam is an above average film with an unpretentious theme, a convincing storyline and equally good performances by the principals — Raakhee, Mithun Chakraborty, Padmini Kolhapure, Asha Parekh, Nana Patekar and others.

Nana Patekar's Durgahatna falls short of keeping a promise. As the title suggests, it deals with an accident. A policeman, chasing criminals, accidentally kills a child. Is he a hero or a criminal? The child's mother hates him. The society lauds his dedication to duty. The man himself can't forgive himself. At this point Durgahatna Veer Ram's screenplay falls apart, trying to work out the best way to settle the problem. Director Kailash Adwani doesn't help either and the film loses some of its momentum and falls short of becoming routine.

Despite flaws, it drums up interest as the protagonist tries to come to terms with the hatred he encounters from the child's mother. Later, of course, he marries her. Ram's script doesn't explain why he takes that step. Was he making up for the woman's loss or did he love her? It seemed that he just wanted the woman to have a replacement child. Rather corny?

Ram has a sudden change of heart and shifts emphasis from the offbeat to the humdrum. Thus, the honest policeman's dedication to duty is tested through the usual ploy. The policeman's child is kidnapped. Will he give in to the kidnapper's demand or sacrifice his child? What he does is anybody's guess. Balinder, Urmila, Nisha Singh, Prema Narayan, Jeet Upendra and Shiva, Nani Hira regulars, star in this film.

One of the most disappointing films from Hrishikesh Mukherjee must be Namumkin (Impossible). Like the title, it seems impossible that Mukherjee could go for such trivia.



Zeenat Aman



Raakhee: quiet and dignified in Sagar Sangam

It is supposed to be a murder mystery. Fine. The film opens with a 55-year-old businessman, settled in Canada, marrying a 25-year-old girl, played by Zeenat. The bridegroom drops dead on his wedding night. Was he murdered or did he commit suicide? Two men, one an insurance agent (Raj Babbar) and the girl's paramour (Vinod Mehra) try to solve the mystery. Fine. But there is no punch or tautness in the theme which slips down under, and halfway through the film, you see through the plot and recognise its weakness: a familiar formula trying to pass off as a thriller.

But it does educate you about Toronto, taking you on a tour of the city — from the spacious airport to the neat streets and well-planned suburbs.

The performances of the principals — Zeenat Aman, Raj Babbar and Vinod Mehra — dampens your spirits further. The disjointed pieces of information are put together hurriedly, without much forethought, resulting in an untidy fabric of patchwork. The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya. Tel: 4712900.



Mithun Chakraborty

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Under Pure Skies

DAILY: 8.30 to 12 noon; 4.30 to 7 pm. Kuwait National Museum: Under Pure Skies, an exhibition of 19th century photographs of the Middle East, on loan from International Museum of Photography, New York.

Kuwait Science Museum

DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum

SAT-THU: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Tareq Rajab Museum

SAT — THU: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

EDUCATION

Books & Software show
DAILY UNTIL SEPT 28: British Council, Mansouriyah; 9 am to 12.30 pm; 5-8 pm: Computers and Application, an exhibition of books and software. Selected titles on show. Organised by British Council in association with Kuwait Bookshops Company. All are welcome.

THEATRE

Alice in Wonderland
SEPT 26: Kuwait English School, Salwa, 7.30 pm. Kuwait Players audition for adults (14 roles) the musical fantasy, Alice in Wonderland. It will be performed in January next year. Those attending auditions — adults and children — are requested to call 5640102 in advance.

Bengali Play
OCT 27/28: 6.30 pm. Mousetrap Theatre: The Mousetrap group, a Bangladeshi theatre company, presents Ballav Purer Rupkatha, a fairy tale. For reservations phone A. Karim — 2627643; Dr Hyder — 5625456; Heron — 4893424.

NATIA
SEPT 29/30: IAC, Funatees: 5.30 National Art

Theatre of Indians abroad (NATIA) presents Indian dance festival. Folk and classical dance from different regions in India. Opening on Thursday; closing ceremony on Friday.

Konkani Drama
OCT 7: IAC, Funatees, 4 pm: Konkani drama entitled "Xim Vo Ximter". Written and directed by Cajetan De Sanvordem, Marcus Vaz, Xavier Gomes, featuring the Mendes Brothers. Entry passes available at Raja Stores.

MUSIC

Kuwait Singers:
MONDAYS AND SATURDAYS, 7.30 pm: Rehearsals for the December concert; at Gulf English, Salwa. New members welcome. For enquiries call 3940770 ext. 56 or 5384873.

Country Western Musical
SEPT 27: Gala Night of KLT and ACT's annual Country Western Musical 7.30 pm, at KLT, Ahmadi.

Sept 28 and 29, night shows, 8 pm.
For bookings call 5727558; 5712033; 5620332.

East meets West
OCT 6: IAC, 6.30 pm: "East meets West", a musical evening, by The Pams with Hindi, Punjabi, Malayalam, Tamil, Konkani, Bengali, Arabic and Western Music. Lead vocalist: Susan Rego. For entry by pass: Tel: 2409250; 4743984 or IAC — 3904817.

Beat Show
OCT 14: IAC, Funatees, 3.30 pm: The Kuwait Goan Beat Show: four hours of non-stop music featuring six brass bands — City Limits, 5th Dimensions, Perfect Stranger, Stepping Stones, Next of Kin and Top Ranks. Organised by the Kuwait Goans.

Guitar Recital
OCT 19: Kuwait Hilton Hotel: Concert of German guitarist and composer Wolfgang Condin. "Hymns of Eternity", one of Condin's most significant compositions will be featured in his concert along with works by J.S Bach and H. Villa-Lobos. Tickets are available from the Hilton lobby.

SOCIAL

Canadian Women's League
OCT 1: First meeting of Canadian Women's League, new season, will be held from 4-6 pm. Maps available at embassy or call 3718678 for details.

Viden Workshop
OCT 5/10: Kuwait Players will hold two video workshops giving instruction and practice on their video system, used for recording stage productions; live editing console and sound mixing system. Members and newcomers welcome. Limited number of places. Tel 5828227.

Sounds Great Party
SEPT 29: Messilah Beach Hotel, 8 pm: Sounds Great group's "Welcome Back/Welcome to Kuwait" dance party. Music by Top Ranks and the Juke Box band. Twist competition, and novelty prizes. For reservations and further details ring Ken Winston or Adolf 5740256/7 or 5758870. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome.

Kuwait Welsh Society
OCT 5: 8 pm. Kuwait Welsh Society social evening. For further details Tel. 371-3467.

D'Assisi Association
OCT 7: Holy Family Cathedral, 8 am: D'Assisi Association's 8th annual thanksgiving mass. All ex-students are welcome. For details phone Augustin — 574-6754 after 6 pm or Henry — 3291909 (am).

Goan Fiesta 88
OCT 13: Messilah Beach Hotel, Habiba Ballroom: Goan Fiesta 88 to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Young Goans Association. Music by the Stepping Stones and Hurricane Alley. For details Tel: 481-3740.

Flasnik/Kapilku
OCT 22: SAS Hotel, The Tent, 6 pm: Kapilku and Flasnik will celebrate their seventh anniversary. For details phone Edna — 653-4200; Florence — 243-9451; Jojo — 902-9593.

HOTELS

At Messilah Beach
Mubarakiyah Restaurant: open 24 hours, buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner and snacks. Sundays: Ladies Day; Mondays: birthday special; Fridays: special buffet "a go go".

At the Sheraton
Riccardo's: Italian cuisine; music by the Sienna's Duo. Lunch and dinner, daily. Closed on Fridays.

At Hamra
Sundays: Lebanese cuisine; Wednesdays: seafood night; Friday's buffet brunch. Entertainment by the Marcus Band provide live entertainment.

Hunt Room: lunch and dinner rest, specialises in meat and fish dishes.

Le Tarbouche: daily lunch and dinner buffet featuring Arab cuisine.

Thursdays: Arab world specialities; Fridays: buffet lunch and dinner.

Coffee Shop: international cuisine and daily specialities; ideal for casual or business meeting.

At the Ramada
Le Mirage Night Club: Thursday night BBQ, full buffet; music by Al Arzz Band.

Al Bender Coffee Shop: continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner; 6 am to midnight; a la carte available.

Al Gandou Grill Garden: 7 pm to midnight, features a selection of grilled specialities.

Open Garden: 7 pm to midnight; a selection of teas, coffees, and juices; Argulla water pipe available; videos shown on large screen every day.

Fish and Chips Shop: 4 pm to 11 pm.

Take away counter: 4 pm to 11 pm, Arabic sandwiches and snacks.

At the SAS
Al Bustan: Friday brunch for families, 11.30 am to 3 pm. Polish duo Danuta and Feliks provide music.

Special promotion: "Shrimps around the world," until Sept 23, shrimps in cashew nut, shrimps curry, Boston shrimps pie and "deep fried ice cream."

Peacock Room: new Chinese food menu introduced by chef Von Kwee Kiong. It features fried wonton, sauteed diced chicken with cashew nut and steak Chinese style.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: international buffet meals at lunch and dinner from 6 am to 1 am; a la carte also available.

Viennese Cafe: other pastries and cakes and other refreshments.

Hanging Babylon Gardens: an ideal place to relax with friends. Thursdays: dine and dance at Al Andalus Night Club.

At the Hilton
La Patisserie: 10.30 am to 10.45 pm: Olympic Promotion. Watch Olympic games on TV sets placed in lobby and restaurant. Light snacks and desserts are on offer.

Failaka Rest: lunch: 12.30-3 pm; dinner: 7.30-11.30 pm: Olympic. Recommendation, until Oct 2, in addition to normal grazing menu.

At the Continental
Gardenia: 7 am to midnight: buffets featuring Arabic, Continental and Indian food. Special buffet for Thursday dinner and Friday lunch.

Darbar: daily Indian lunch buffet, except Friday; a la carte dinner.

At the Meriden
Versailles: seafood, grilled, lunch and dinner.

Al Waha: Noodles promotion, until Sept 30.

Thursday: Tony's jam session, music, good and lively atmosphere.

Friday: family fun day — brunch, buffet and live entertainment; video cartoons and fun.

SPORTS

Kuwait Nomads Rugby
SEPT 26: 7.15 pm: Kuwait Nomads rugby players train every Sunday and Tuesday. Meet at the site of the Old Ground in Fintas. New members always made welcome. For details ring Graham Adams — 484-1296; Andy Hopkins — 564-2599; Steve Hill — 531-8060.

Windsurfing Regatta
OCT 7: MBH Windsurfing Regatta. Open to men, women and teams. Entry forms available from Marine Centre (Tel: 55755960); Qabazard Marine (Tel: 5730442); Sultan Centers and Al Boom Marine (Tel: 4830570). For further details phone 5624111 ext. 751/779.

Softball League
CALLING PLAYERS — men and women — to join Kuwait International Softball League. Contact Steve Diemler — Tel: 531-5246 or Vic Mason Tel: 5728931. Ladies wishing to join the Ladies League call Rita Diemler — Tel: 531-5246.

Boy's Own Club
OCT 22/23: Boy's Own Club will hold a seven-a-side one-day football festival on the holiday declared to mark the Prophet's (PBUH) birthday. Interested teams can contact Milagres 3967446 or Joe d'Souza 4813662.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

3.30 Holy Quran
3.35 Heidi: cartoon serial
4.10 World News via Satellite
4.40 Baqaya Huitam: Arabic serial, starring Juliet Awad, Rabih Shihab, Dawood Jalalaj.
5.40 Songs
6.10 Documentary
7.05 Variety Show
7.30 Alwan: presented by Rola
8.00 Quran and Science: "Alam Al Nahal." Presented by Dr Ahmad Shawki Ibrahim.
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Al Shara'a Maktour: Arabic serial, starring Hassan Yusuf, Nawal Al Futouh, Mustafa Fahmi, Osama Abbas
10.50 Min Ajal Imraa: Arabic feature film, starring Laila Fawzi, Omar Sharif, Mahmoud Milajji, Amal Farid.
12.05 News Summary
12.10 World News via Satellite, followed by Holy Quran/Closedown.

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Care Bear Cartoons
6.30 Not Another Science Show: a look at the



Miami Vice, 8.40 pm, KTV 2

solar system.
7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of news and views.
7.30 Charles-in-Charge: Charles disagrees with his girlfriend and decides not to talk to women. Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Miami Vice: "Lombard." A sly operator gets away after committing a series of crimes. Will the squad find evidence against him? Starring: Don Johnson.
9.30 Olympic Report from Seoul.
10.30 The Equalizer: "Target of Choice." A psychopath terrorises innocent victims. Starring: Edward Woodward.
11.30 News summary/Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newsworld
30 Religious Service
0100 News Summary followed by From Raj to Rajiv
45 Without Strings (ex 26th)
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Peoples' Choice
50 Science in Action
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Good Books
30 Anything Goes
0400 Newsweek
30 5th and 12th Where Angels Fear to Tread; 19th and 26th Sportsworld
45 Reflections
50 Waveguide
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Nature Notebook
45 Recording of the Week
0600 Newsweek
30 The Sturges (ex 26th Has Socialism a Future?)
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 The Cross and the Crescent (ex 26th Every Poem an Epiphany)
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 5th and 12th Where Angels Fear to Tread; 19th and 26th Malgudi Days
30 Anything Goes
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Good Books
30 Financial News followed by Sports
45 Peoples' Choice (ex 19th and 26th Sportsworld)
1000 News Summary followed by The Sturges (ex 26th Has Socialism a Future?)
30 The Vintage Chart Show

1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Health Matters (ex 26th Tech Talk)
30 The Ken Bruce Show
1200 Radio Newsworld
15 Radio 1
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Anything Goes (ex 19th and 26th Sportsworld)
45 (19th and 26th only) Anything Goes
1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
45 The Third Policeman (ex 26th T. S. Eliot Poems)
1500 Radio Newsworld
15 The Sturges (ex 26th Has Socialism a Future?)
45 English Songs (ex 19th)
1600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 5th and 12th Where Angels Fear to Tread; 19th and 26th Sportsworld
30 Lyrics and Lyricsists (ex 5th The A-Z of Hollywood)
45 The World Today
1700 World News
09 Commentary
15 Beethoven (ex 19th and 26th New Music)
45 Sports Roundup
1800 Newsweek
30 Multitrack 1: Top 30 (ex 5th Prom Concert)
1900 Outlook, opening with News Summary (ex 5th Prom Concert)
39 Stock Market Report
45 Peoples' Choice (ex 19th and 26th Sportsworld)
2000 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Sports International

FM Services.

0800 Easy Listening
0830 News
0840 Easy Listening
1000 Songs and Music
1300 Easy Listening
1330 News
1400 Classical Music
1600 Easy Listening
1700 Latin American Hour
1800 News
1900 Helter Skelter
2000 Songs
2130 News
2145 Pop
2300 Jazz Sound
2300 Easy Listening
2400 Instrumental Music
0200 Closedown

Urdu

1900 Opening
1910 Beheren Qaul
1916 Programme Preview
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Islamiyat: Daur-e-Hazir
2000 News
2020 Songs
2040 Hamare Mehman
2100 Closedown

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
My Lucky Stars
Starring: Jackie Chan, Sam Hung
Al Salmiya
Burglar
Starring: Whoopi Goldberg
Al Hamra
Nahar Al Khauf (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, Noora
Drive-In
Khata Al Shaitan (Arabic)
Starring: Suhail Ramzi, Karam Mutawa, Mohammad Wafiq
Sulabikhat
Steel Dawn

Al Firdous
Saad Saal Baad (Hindi)
Starring: Suresh Oberoi, Navin Nischol, Sharmila Tagore
Fahabehel Open-Air
Aankhen (Hindi)
Al Fahabehel
Transfers
Al Jahra
The Taming of the Scrooge
Granada
West is Tough Amigo
Al Jleeb
Nepale Meye (Bengali)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Le Battant (French)

NIGHT CHEMIST

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Ibn Hayan Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kahr St.
Hawali and Nagra
Al Andalus Pharmacy
Tunis St.
Salmiya and Rumaitiya
Al Randa Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahabehel and Ahmadi
Al Fulaq Pharmacy
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F.heel
Kheitan
Al Hayat Pharmacy
Main St.
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Market

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THERE is no grief which time does not lessen and soften — Cicero, Roman scholar (106 BC-43 BC).

Kenya moves towards authoritarian rule

By Robert M. Press

NAIROBI, Kenya: This East African nation has taken a big step toward more authoritarian rule, according to Kenyan attorneys, church leaders, and Western diplomats.

Critics of the move lament that Kenya is following the pattern of other African nations in making its president nearly all-powerful.

Amid 75 minutes of cheering, Kenya's parliament unanimously passed a constitutional amendment to give the president practically unlimited power to fire judges. Critics charge that the move strips the judiciary of its independence and makes judges subject to political pressures and risk of dismissal by the president.

The amendment also extends, from 24 hours to 14 days, the period during which police can hold suspects of serious offences before bringing them to court. Critics say this change increases the chance that detainees might be tortured, especially for those considered "political" prisoners.

According to Amnesty International, a worldwide human rights organisation, Kenyan police have frequently tortured detainees in the past. And, reports by human rights organizations have indicated that this period — from the moment a person is apprehended to his first court appearance — is the time during which most official abuses occur.

Detention Kenya's attorney general, Matthew Muli, who declined to be interviewed, told parliament that the longer detention period was needed to carry out investigations in serious cases prior to bringing someone to court.

Kenyan attorneys note that the first court appearance is designed to allow family and lawyers to see the detainee shortly after arrest and for charges to be stated. They also point out that investigations continue after the court appearance.

A number of people have died in police custody in recent years, and critics of Kenya's human rights conduct are concerned about what will happen if the president, as expected, signs the amendment into law.

"Kenya has had more respect for the rule of law and political freedom than most African nations," says Carl Rosberg, director of the Institute of International Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and author of a book on Kenya. But it has been "moving more and more to a strong system of personal rule," Rosberg says.

Nobel Peace prize

Reagan, Gorbachev may be the winners

By Erland Lyngve

OSLO, (UPI): President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev may jointly win the Nobel Peace Prize Thursday for their achievement in destroying an entire class of nuclear missiles through last year's Intermediate Nuclear Force Reduction Treaty.

"There's little doubt," said a Nobel committee source on condition of anonymity. "They are the main contenders."

The superpower leaders were jointly nominated for the 1988 Nobel peace prize shortly after they signed the INF Treaty in Washington on Dec. 8, 1987, the source said. He would not say who submitted the nomination.

Nobel committee spokesman Jakob Sverdrup said 95 other individuals and 23 organizations have been nominated for this year's prize — including Pope John Paul, UN official Brian Urquhart, Philippine President Cor Aquino and pop singer Boh Geldof.

Names All these have been on the shortlist for the past two years. New names for 1988 include Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi, imprisoned African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, nominated for his record as United Nations secretary-general.

Nominated organizations include the International Scout Movement, the World Health Organization and the British Broadcasting Corp., nominated for contributing to international

The vote is a further "erosion" of human rights and of Kenya's efforts to "maintain at least a quasi-democratic system."

Parliament's approval of the amendment follows earlier adoption of other measures enhancing the president's power, including a 1986 amendment that gave him power to fire the attorney general and the auditor general without review and approval by an independent tribunal. The combined changes, plus the president's position as head of the only legal political party, give him a great deal of control — over the courts and over parliament.

A Western diplomat in Nairobi says Kenya already has one-man rule, and the passage of the amendment just strengthens that by making judges "figureheads."

The current head of state, "will restrain himself because of his respect for the law," says Kenyan attorney Kokonyo Mukolongo. But he and other attorneys are concerned about what might happen under future heads of state.

According to Joe Okwach, chairman of Kenya's law society: "The fundamental rights and freedoms of the constitution only have meaning where there is a judiciary to protect them... The whole democratic notion of checks and balances is being swept away."

That doesn't seem to bother elected officials. During presentation of the bill, there was no real debate. Kenya's Vice-President, Josephat Karanja, said giving the president power to fire judges simply removes a "colonial, anachronistic cobweb" that hinders his power. Neither he nor other Kenyan officials made a case that any of the changes were necessary because of any internal or external threat to security.

Dissatisfaction But adoption of the amendment will "increase the dissatisfaction of lawyers and some other educated elite who want Kenya to move in a Western direction," says the Western diplomat.

Several Kenyan church leaders and attorneys, as well as the Western diplomat, say that the President's control over parliament has made parliamentarians afraid to speak out. The President recently kicked two parliamentarians out of the Kenyan African National Union party — and thus from parliament, since seats are open only to KANU members.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

If tests can be detected, they can be banned

Scientists plan to halt nuclear arms race

By Frank Barnaby

LONDON: Independent, non-government groups of British and US earthquake scientists will soon travel to the Soviet Union to set up seismic monitoring stations designed to detect nuclear weapons tests — following a pre-summit agreement signed in Moscow recently. Their aim: to discover whether or not a comprehensive test ban treaty, banning all nuclear-weapon tests, will work.

The scientists hope to prove that militarily significant weapons tests can be properly detected and verified. If tests can be detected, they can be banned, and if tests can be banned, the arms race will be over.

The British seismic experiment, which has been organised by the independent British Seismic Verification Research Group, and financed by private money raised from British trusts, is part of a unique contribution to arms control by a non-governmental organisation.

Non-governmental American scientists, under the auspices of the Washington-based Natural Resources Defence Council, are also establishing five seismic sta-

tions, each about 1,000 km from the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. With the British station in the same area, this will give a network of six independent stations. Other countries, such as Australia, West Germany and Sweden, will be invited to join the project to internationalise it and thereby increase its credibility.

Ban

A permanent and comprehensive ban on all nuclear-weapon tests is urgent, as it will stop the development of new weapons — weapons of a type which arms controllers believe will considerably increase the danger of nuclear war.

President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev's recently signed "INF treaty" to eliminate intermediate range nuclear forces, and the Soviet-American START negotiations now under way to reduce the size of the strategic nuclear arsenals, deal with numbers of existing nuclear weapons, and not their quality. The modernisation of weapons is still allowed. But a comprehensive test ban treaty would prevent modernisation.

Even existing weapons need to be tested. From time to time, the Soviet or American military will

pick a nuclear warhead from its nuclear arsenal and test to make sure it still works as it should.

If a comprehensive test ban treaty made this no longer possible, the military would become uncertain of the reliability of its nuclear weapons and be unwilling to use them, particularly in a nuclear first strike for which very high reliability is essential. A test ban treaty would, therefore, both stop the nuclear arms race and prevent one side making a sudden nuclear attack on the other out of the blue.

Hinder

Such a treaty would also significantly hinder the spread of nuclear weapons to countries that do not now have them, a vitally important objective because the more countries that have nuclear weapons, the greater the probability of nuclear war. And time is of the essence.

The number of countries able to produce nuclear weapons, once they take the political decision to do so, is increasing all the time.

Why then aren't governments negotiating an effective test ban? According to the British and US governments, the problem is verifying that the USSR is not

secretly testing new weapons.

Nuclear tests are now undertaken underground, to avoid contaminating the atmosphere with radioactive "fall-out." But seismologists, the earthquake scientists who can detect the resulting large vibrations of the earth, differ about the difficulty of verifying a test-ban treaty.

Some non-governmental seismologists believe that a monitoring network of about 25 seismic stations spread throughout the USSR and the USA would detect and identify more than 90% of nuclear explosions in large underground caverns down to yields of 1,000 tons of TNT. Nuclear explosions with yields of less than 1,000 tons have little military significance.

Verifications

But seismologists employed by the American and British governments argue that adequate verifications can only be achieved for nuclear explosions with explosive yields greater than those equivalent to 10,000 tons of TNT. The British seismic experiment in the USSR is to try to determine whether the governmental scientists or the non-governmental scientists are

right. The British station is being established at Garm, some 1,000 km south of the Soviet nuclear-weapon test site at Semipalatinsk. The station will be equipped with a "broadband" seismometer — basically a coil of wire suspended within a magnet by a spring. When the earth moves, because of an earthquake or an explosion, the coil moves relative to the magnet, producing an electric signal that is recorded on a tape recorder.

Explosions

The seismometer records signals over a wide frequency range, including high frequencies. Measurements at high frequencies are important to detect and identify nuclear explosions in the normal background of seismic events, which includes earthquakes, chemical explosions for quarrying and so on.

Nuclear explosions release an amount of energy similar to that of an earthquake, but into a smaller volume of rock. As a result they give off more high frequency pressure waves. High frequency signals help distinguish between signals from nuclear explosions and signals from earthquakes.

The American and Soviet governments intend to conduct joint nuclear test explosions, at the US test site in the Nevada desert and at the Soviet test site. Exactly what the military use of the experiments will be is not clear, but each side will explode its own nuclear weapons at its test site, will not tell the other side the yield of the explosions, and attempt to detect each other's explosions.

Nevertheless, the two sides hope that this experiment, called the Joint Verification Experiment, will lead to agreement on verification measures that will ensure the ratification, by the US Senate, of the US-Soviet 1974 Threshold Test Ban and 1976 Peaceful Nuclear Explosion Treaties.

The fact that these two treaties, that only prohibit nuclear explosions with explosive powers above those of 150,000 tons of TNT, are yet to be ratified, shows that it will be some time before all nuclear explosions are banned. But the current verification activities of non-governmental seismologists may persuade reluctant politicians to hasten the day. (PANOS)



Chile's opposition seeks to widen Pinochet issue

By Tom Harvey

SANTIAGO, Chile, (UPI): Chile's opposition has begun aiming not only to oust Gen. Augusto Pinochet after 15 years in power but to turn an Oct 5 plebiscite into a vote on what Chileans call a "Pinochet doctrine."

The doctrine, recently reinforced in hard-line speeches by Pinochet and his Army second in command, Gen. Santiago Sinclair, spells out a permanent, powerful role for the armed forces in Chile's political life as it moves toward a civilian government after 15 years of military control.

"It was a rather frightening articulation of this view (that) the armed forces are the ultimate guarantor of the nation's will," said Arturo Valenzuela, head of the Latin America studies programme at Georgetown University in Washington, who was in Chile when the speeches were delivered.

Pinochet became president after the armed forces brought down the government of President Salvador Allende in a Sept. 11, 1973 coup. Pinochet is the only presidential candidate in the plebiscite. If he wins he will remain president eight more years. If he loses he has promised an open election in 1980.

Doctrine

The Pinochet doctrine is based in the 72-year-old general's fervent cold war anti-communism and flourishes in bellicose, nationalistic pronouncements. Pinochet sees Chile's recent economic success as a result of the armed forces' continued role in guiding the nation, in contrast to neighbouring countries where inflation roars at several hundred per cent under civilian governments.

In his most recent speech, Pinochet denied the existence of "political sectors" that lack the "necessary competence" to protect democracy and freedom. In contrast, he said, the military "is prepared... to exercise public functions."

Sinclair, also speaking on the 15th anniversary of Pinochet's appointment as commander in chief, said the armed forces "in all eventualities signal they can not do anything else but complete their duty of respecting and requiring respect for the con-

sitution."

Manuel Garretón, a sociologist member of an opposition think tank, said the speeches, while continuing to view the armed forces as the "saviour from communism," also indicated their role in government "must be maintained even if you don't have communist aggression."

Valenzuela said Pinochet and Sinclair signalled they are ready to "take matters into our own hands" if they see political confrontation and chaos should Pinochet be defeated.

But a diplomat said he saw the Pinochet speech only as a politician playing to "his party (the Army) to his constituency, if you will."

Pinochet interprets Chilean history as a series of crises in which each time the military has acted to save the nation, including the 1973 coup. He sees the military's 1980 constitution as solidifying that role and preventing further breakdowns in the political process.

The constitution, approved in a plebiscite the opposition says was terribly flawed, gives the armed forces veto power over acts of Congress and presidential



Gen. Pinochet

decrees, through a National Security Council, and the ability to control the senate of the new congress to be elected in 1989.

His broad strike 8 outlaws all acts or doctrines "against the family" or of "a totalitarian character or founded in class struggle."

The opposition, confident it will win, sees the Oct 5 plebiscite as both a vote on Pinochet and on the military's constitution. It expects a defeat to act as a "political shock," weakening armed forces support for Pinochet and shaking the military out of its hard-line stance.

Hispanic-Americans on the road to political power

By Bernd Debusmann

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Hispanic Americans, the fastest-growing ethnic minority in the United States, are slowly moving toward power in politics.

They still have a long way to go, but political analysts and demographers predict that sheer numbers will turn Hispanics into key political players in the near future.

"We have been called a sleeping giant," said Rita Elizondo Thomson, head of the Washington office of the National Association of Latino elected and appointed officials. "The giant is not sleeping anymore."

Nevertheless, statistics indicate that Hispanic political representation is not proportionate to their numbers or to their influence on US cultural and economic life.

By the association's count, 3.317 Hispanics hold public office today, twice as many as a decade ago but only a minute fraction — 0.67 per cent — of the 490,000 elected officials in the country. Black Americans have almost twice as many representatives as Hispanics.

There is no Hispanic in the US Senate, only 11 in the House of Representatives, and a sole Hispanic state governor, Robert Martinez of Florida.

Representation

At a meeting of 200 Hispanic leaders in Washington earlier this year, improving representation was identified as the top priority for a community which now numbers nearly 20 million, out of a total estimated US population of 246 million.

Forecasters of growing political influence point to population growth figures.

The Hispanic population has a growth rate five times as high as the national average, partly through immigration, partly because of a pattern of large families, partly because roughly

11 per cent of all US births are Hispanic but only four per cent of all deaths.

The US Census Bureau forecasts that Hispanics will account for around 15 per cent of the population by the year 2000. A decade after that, Hispanics are expected to overtake blacks as the largest minority group.

More than half of today's Hispanics live in California and Texas, the biggest and among the most hotly contested states in the November presidential elections. Political analysts say Hispanics in these two states could tip the balance.

Consequently, Hispanic voters have been courted as never before. Vice-President George Bush, the Republican candidate, frequently stresses that he has three half-Mexican grandchildren, from son Jeb and his Mexican wife Columba.

The Democrats' Michael Dukakis delights in showing off his fluent Spanish at campaign rallies.

"We are no longer ignored," said Elizondo. "We are being taken seriously."

In the past national elections, Hispanic turnout has run below average but, analysts say this trend is bound to change.

At present, the average Hispanic is 25 years old, seven years younger than the US average. Younger people in all political groups tend to vote less frequently and show less interest in the political process than citizens aged 35 and older, according to polling surveys.

By 1992, some experts predict a real Hispanic awakening as these young Hispanics move into age brackets where voting rates are higher and as they become US citizens with voting rights.

According to a recent study, there are presently about 2.6 million Hispanics who are legal US residents but not citizens.

Predictions vary on the extent of political power Hispanics will

hold in the long term. A recent study by social scientist Henry Ingles, looking 50 years ahead, visualised a Hispanic woman president; Hispanic governors in 25 states; Hispanic mayors in more than half the big cities, and 15 Hispanic senators.

One big hurdle on the road to political power appears to be the diversity of the Hispanic population.

The term "Hispanic" was coined by the Census Bureau to embrace Mexicans — by far the largest group — Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Central Americans and an assortment of other Latins. Many have little in common but the Spanish language.

The Cubans who fled from Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution and prospered in Miami have aspirations that differ from those of Mexican farm workers in Texas or Puerto Ricans in New York.

Influence "Hispanics do not yet see themselves as a whole and until they do, Hispanic politics will remain more of a local and regional phenomenon than a national concern," wrote Thomas Wey, author of "Hispanic USA," a new book on the influence of Hispanics.

But even in the sensitive area of national and cultural identity, attitudes are changing and Hispanics are building bridges between problems specific to their group and issues that concern all.

Explained Miguel Gonzalez Pardo, director of Latino studies at Florida International University in Miami: "I may express my Cuban identity when discussing Castro's human rights violations, which mainly concern Cubans."

"But while meeting in Washington to discuss the threat to bilingual education, a concern also shared by Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans, we would relate to one another as Hispanics."

Violence in the Soviet Union

By Charles Mitchell

MOSCOW, (UPI): The spiraling ethnic violence between Armenians and Azerbaijanis demonstrated the Kremlin's fragile control over its far-flung empire — a witch's brew of different races, languages and religions.

Encouraged by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of openness, ethnic minorities long suppressed or ignored by Moscow have grown more aggressive in demanding greater autonomy and protection of their cultures and languages.

The upsurge in nationalism is driving home a lesson the Kremlin could have learned from the British and French in Africa long ago — colonial-style government with the imposition of rule from afar is doomed to failure.

Unrest

Ethnic unrest has also shown the limits of Gorbachev's glasnost policy. Foreign reporters have been banned from Armenia and Azerbaijan, a reminder that the new Soviet openness remains far from total.

Although there is no question of the various minorities breaking away from the Soviet Union, the glue that holds the Soviet empire together is cracking. The question is how much Moscow's rule may change.

The unrest between Muslim Azerbaijanis and Christian Armenians over the Armenian enclave of Nagorno Karabakh in Azerbaijan, which erupted again

Ethnic minorities have grown more aggressive

this week, has been allowed to simmer for nine months primarily because it is not anti-Russian in nature.

While embarrassing to Gorbachev, there is no threat of it being transformed into an anti-Soviet cause. It is purely a land dispute between two bot-blooded minorities going back to Czarist times.

The failure to control it, however, has given Gorbachev's conservative opponents valuable ammunition to attack and slow the pace of economic and political reform.

Indecisive

It has also made the Kremlin appear indecisive, a factor in large-scale demonstrations by anti-Soviet nationalists in the Baltic republics.

Using tanks and troops to crush nationalist sentiment will also cost Gorbachev valuable image points in the West.

Gorbachev has described the nationalities issue as one of the greatest challenges for the Kremlin. Statistics justify Moscow's concern.

The Soviet Union has more than 170 nationalities with at least the same number of languages spread over one-sixth of the earth's surface. Its 15 republics are subdivided into 16

fully autonomous sub-republics and 18 autonomous regions.

While Slavs constitute more than 70 per cent of the Soviet population, the growth rate in the non-Slavic Central Asian republics is far higher.

Gorbachev's approach to the growth of nationalism in the minority populations has been less than creative.

Growth

When ethnic and anti-Russian riots erupted in Kazakhstan in December 1986 he fired the local Communist Party boss and replaced him with a Russian.

When the Nagorno-Karabakh issue triggered an anti-Armenian pogrom in the Armenian capital, Gorbachev gave Arkady Volynsky, a Russian, special powers to use the military to maintain law and order, like military governors in past colonial empires.

Even that military is structured on colonial lines with ethnic Russian officers in command of non-Russian troops, much like the old British Army structure in Africa and India.

While the nationalities issue cannot bring down Gorbachev, it can seriously compound his problems, especially if the reform programme

Stumps draw to a close for Imran Khan

End of a sporting love affair

THERE is still something magical about cricket in England. When I first came here I was struck by the sheer pleasure of playing at the country grounds.

Here were lush green pitches and well-kept outfield, traditional pavilions and dressing-rooms which reeked of history.

Since then I have been lucky to play much of my cricket at some very pretty grounds. I will never forget the Parks at Oxford in the spring, when the sun was out and the smell of fresh-cut grass was in the air, and I was yearning to play cricket after a winter off. It was enough to make me, too, talk about the weather, like all the Englishmen.

I first came in 1971, as a raw 18-year-old, the youngest member of the Pakistan touring team. I had never been out of Pakistan before, and it was a tremendous experience, a complete contrast in culture.

I had an idea of the western way of life from seeing films at school and watching TV at home, but it was nothing like what hit me when I actually arrived.

I was dazzled by the restaurants, the cinemas, the discos, even the shops. I am not at all the shopping type but I think every Pakistani is struck by this.

When we arrived, we had a field day in Lillywhite's. In those days we did not have contracts with bat companies and we were just given an allowance and told, "This is where you buy your equipment". We were fascinated just looking at all the different bats.

Being a junior member of the team was hard to take, and I kept getting into trouble. Once, three of us younger players stuffed pillows in our beds and went off to a disco. Unfortunately, a couple of senior players had the same idea and they reported us. We were fined £2 each, which was exactly the same amount as our end-of-tour bonus.

On another occasion I was

Pakistani cricketer Imran Khan has recently retired from English county cricket after seventeen years. In this article he reflects on his graduation from a shy schoolboy to a cricketing superstar.

almost sent home. We were in Swansea and I was sharing a room with Saeed Ahmed, the most senior player. Hoping to impress such an eminent figure, I got into bed very early. He said there was a good disco round the corner and why didn't I go there?

So I thought what a great guy he was and went off to the Top Rank until it closed. And he reported me to the management for being out every night and waking him up at three in the morning so that he couldn't score any runs. Other players told me later that he'd set me up because he wanted a single room.

Played

I played in only one Test match on the tour, scoring five runs and failing to take a wicket. But I learned a lot. When I became captain, I knew how to deal with young players, and made sure they were never as neglected as we had been.

During the tour I was signed up by Worcestershire, whose chairman, Wing-Commander William Shakespeare, had seen me do well in Pakistan the previous winter. My parents wanted me to go home and do my A-levels, but he said I could do them in Worcester, so I went to the Royal Grammar School. It was a miserable winter. All I remember of it was the darkness, and the hunger. In Pakistan I was used to three cooked meals, and tea on top.

In England I used to have lunch and feel hungry again by the time I walked downstairs, and then at tea-time there was something they called dinner, and at dinner-time I was waiting for another meal to come and there wasn't one.

I bought endless bars of chocolate and pints of milk. I

took to the English milk immediately, and it's still my favourite drink.

On Pakistan's tours of England in those days, it was the done thing for fast bowlers to drink beer, because Freddie Trueman did it. But it never appealed to me. My cousin Majid (Khan, then Pakistan's leading batsman) was a teetotaler, and he was my hero.

That same winter, Wing-Commander Shakespeare died, and Worcester decided to give their extra overseas registration to John Parker, of New Zealand, instead of me. If I had gone to Oxford, anyone who studied in England qualified as a non-overseas player — that would have been the end of my county career.

I went to Keele, and read PPE. At least I read PPE in the winter, and played cricket in the summer. I had it planned out, but when it came to my Finals the first cricket World Cup was on.

I took five papers, and then played for Pakistan against Australia at Headingley, and then took three more papers. By then my mind was completely on the World Cup and I ended up getting a Third which I didn't like.

I saw my tutor, Dr Paul Hayes, again this year when I was signing copies of my book in Oxford, and he very flatteringly told me that the way the marking is done now, I would have been viced for a First on the strength of the first five papers. But at the time I felt terrible because in my last year I had worked pretty hard.

Oxford was important in other ways. It was three years of total education, mental and cricketing. Not just the academic work but the atmos-

phere of the university was a formative part of my life; it moulded my thoughts and my mind.

Looking back, it is so important to hold on to your education, not necessarily for what you're going to do with it, but for what it does to you, the way it makes your mind grow.

Danger

The great danger to any professional or competitive sport is that you become one-track, you never realise that life exists outside that sport.

I think Geoffrey Boycott is an example, because he's so lucid and understands cricket so well, and yet when he talks about life outside cricket he's almost naive.

There are very few cricketers who develop interests outside the game. Especially if you make it to international level, it becomes one-dimensional, and the nature of the game is such that you're playing the whole day long — and then in the evening there's the pub, especially in England. That doesn't leave time for much else.

I moved from Worcestershire to Sussex in 1977, and from Brighton to London in 1982. Since then I have become a complete Londoner. What I like best about it is the people one meets here, coming from Lahore where one might meet barely four or five new faces in the whole year. Here one can go out six days a week and meet people from different parts of the world and walks of life.

Anglicised

The second best thing is the restaurants. Japanese food is my favourite these days, but there's so much choice here — there are even a couple of good Pakistani restaurants. I like English food, too — lamb chops and so on. But the best food in the world is sold by the roadside in Lahore, to eat sitting in the car.

Contrary to what people seem to think, I am not a night-clubbing person. I find a disco with loud music and flashing

lights just about the worst place to go. I go to Tramp in London, simply because it's got a wonderful dining-room and especially during June and July, you can suddenly meet someone you haven't seen for years. But just going to a nightclub for its own sake is a nightmare.

I don't at all feel I have become Anglicised. A lot of your character is formed by the time you're 18. What has happened is that my horizons are broader, many of my views have changed.

For instance, when I came here I was a complete male chauvinist, coming from Pakistan. I changed gradually — my sister Rubina gave me *The Female Eunuch* by Germaine Greer and it was a real enlightenment to see how things looked from a woman's point of view.

One attitude I have not picked up is the average county pro's approach to cricket. You get players here who have been in the game for 20 years and not played international cricket. For them it's just a job.

Professionalism is very important for the survival of the game, but in its worst form it kills flair. Cricketers should not hover around mediocrity. If I feel I cannot excel, I'd rather do something else.

But then there's Botham — he was brought up in this kind of cricket and yet he experiments, he bowls bouncers, leg cutters, he tries everything, which is not the approach of the professional. He has the style of the amateur.

That doesn't mean being less competitive or ambitious. Look at the Australians, they are really complete amateurs — they hold other jobs, they play mostly at weekends — and yet they are the most competitive players I've seen.

Playing less cricket in the past few years, I have taken up shooting again. I shot regularly until I went into Test cricket and I have to say without being too immodest that I was a very



Imran Khan: not immediately possible to fall in love again

good shot.

I had a gun from the age of seven onwards. In the afternoons during the summer school holidays when my parents were asleep, I used to sneak out with my air-gun and shoot lizards and snakes.

I used to love going out at night in the Jeep shooting wild boar, which is considered a pest and is found in profusion because no one eats pig meat. Winter in Pakistan is a beautiful time to shoot, cool and sunny.

Last month a friend of mine, Andrew Fraser, hired a grouse moor in Scotland. It was the best grouse-shooting I'd done because for once it wasn't raining, the ground wasn't wet, there wasn't a stroog wind and my hands weren't freezing.

I even go pig-pigeon shooting. What is not so enjoyable is

going out stalking, because I find it not that much of a sport — I actually don't like killing animals, which is perhaps strange for someone who enjoys shooting. I always had this desire to have a pet tiger; I don't suppose it will happen.

Refused

I don't know if I will carry on with cricket now. I've refused to play in Pakistan's series against Australia this month, as a protest. It is off season, and the weather after the monsoon is unbearable for crowds and players alike.

I hate it when foreign teams play in these conditions and go back complaining about the heat and dust. It is such bad publicity for Pakistan.

I'm thinking of going to New Zealand with Pakistan in the new year, but by then my

replacement as captain may have made the job his own. The main reason I'm considering playing on is the present Pakistani team. They're keen, extremely talented and have a great sense of fun.

I don't know what I will do when I retire. I always knew this was coming. When my leg was broken I was out for almost two years and had a lot of time to think about it.

And I still find it very difficult to come up with something that will stimulate me as cricket has. I suppose it is like the end of a love affair: it is not immediately possible to fall in love again.

Very few people have a profession in this life which they enjoy and they're very lucky. Cricket, although I never treated it as such, was a profession which I loved.

And now the designer mini

By Jo Mears

CALLING all fashion freaks — here is the trendiest ever car ... and it is set to drive people wild. For the mini skirt isn't the only mini back in fashion. Mary Quant, the original designer of the short skirt has turned her expert hand to creating a mini of a different kind — a new mini car!

Mary, now 55, has teamed up with motor manufacturer Austin Rover to produce a stylish 998 cc 'Mini Designer'. And it is strictly for people who like to look chic IN or OUT of their car.

Only 2000 of the trendy models are to be built, available in black or diamond white and equipped with stereo, sunvisor vanity mirrors and tell-tale Mary Quant daisy motif strategically placed over the car!

But that's not the only Quant touch. The seat fabric is typically Quant — in stunning white and black stripes and carrying the Mary Quant signature. Other eye-catching features include the luxurious three-spoke leather covered steering wheel and tinted glass windows.

And at just £4,654 Mary thinks it is a dream buy. She explains: "I have always loved the simplicity and efficiency of the mini and am thrilled to have been given the chance to create the Mini Designer."

Apart from the obvious links between myself and the mini, we both represent good British design which never goes out of fashion and which has continued to be affordable and classless."

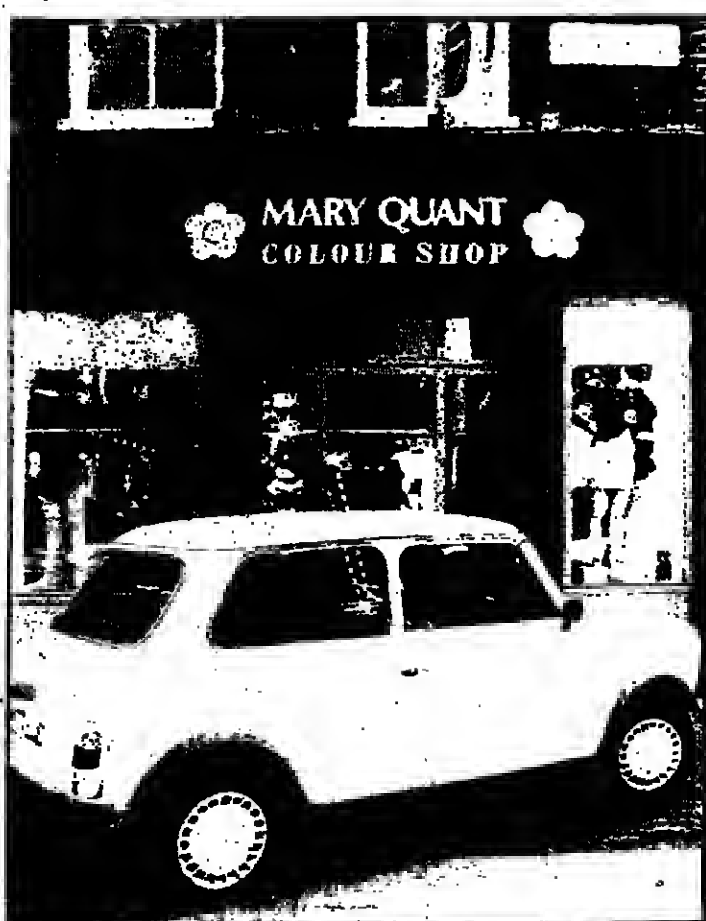
Meanwhile, Austin Rover spokesman Sue Curtis adds: "It's aimed at the young designer or the fashion conscious. It doesn't cost much more than an ordinary mini and they will soon become collector's items."

Just like the original Mary Quant mini skirts.

Since Mary Quant thought small in the sixties and gave the world the mini skirt made popular by Twiggy, her empire has never stopped expanding.

She has even served to fashion and now produces many co-ordinated design collections, which include cosmetics, underwear, bedwear, household equipment and of course the new 'Mini Designer'.

Mary Quant, the creator of the mini skirt, has now turned her hand to producing the perfect mini car. And naturally there are plenty of designer touches ... making it the trendiest car around.



The new Mini Designer in front of the Mary Quant colour shop.

In the fifties and early sixties Mary Quant revolutionised fashion — she broke all the rules and made it fun. And today she continues to appeal to teenagers of the eighties as much as she did to their mini-skirted mothers.

In fact, she admits that she finds today's fashion even more exciting.

Mary says: "Now it's evolution. There is no need for revolution. Fashion today is the way you put clothes together. There is no one look, no one hemline, no one trouser shape. You take from fashion what you and put it together the way you like."

Mary, who is Welsh and the daughter of two school teachers, had an interest in fashion from the word go.

She recalls: "I used to inherit my cousin's clothes and I'd rearrange them and cut up bedspreads and wrap them around me."

"From about eight, I had this image in my head of what I wanted. There was this girl at dancing class. She had a bucket haircut and wore a black skinny sweater, with a short black pleated skirt, white socks and black patent shoes. The image is quite sharp."

The tiny black skirt was to become the inspiration behind the sixties mini.

After studying art at Goldsmiths College in London, where she met her husband and business partner-to-be, Alexander Plunket Greene, Mary began designing clothes for herself and her friends. She and

Alexander became part of a band of trendy young people who frequented London's alternative fashion capital in the King's Road.

Mary recalls: "We thought we were the only people who wanted our clothes and we were amazed when other people became interested."

In 1955, the couple opened their first shop 'Bazaar' in the King's Road and underneath a restaurant called Alexander's. Parents thought their clothes were outrageous — but the young loved them, and queued for hours on the pavement outside the shop.

From the business flourished. In 1966, Mary introduced a cosmetics range, which today remains her biggest seller. The shop and restaurant are gone — but the Quant empire now has over 35 companies all over the world.

Mary adds: "We don't just stick the Quant name on everything. I'm involved in design the whole time. I work with a team and I like to work right across the product areas, developing the ideas through to production."

Mary and Alexander have been married nearly 32 years and they have one son, Orlando, aged 17, who, according to Mary, has inherited none of his parents' creative ways.

Alexander recalls how he first met Mary. He says: "Mary and I met at art college and for me it was just at first sight. But, also, I recognised Mary's talent and promised her we'd open a shop for the clothes she designed. I put up half the money, and my friend Archie McNair put up the rest and became a partner."

Today Archie continues to be the financial genius behind the prosperous business.

Mary and Alexander now live in a 1920s six-bedroomed house in Surrey and commute to their office in London each day. They always travel to work separately, because, as Mary says, separate cars, separate bedrooms are vital to their matrimonial harmony.

She adds: "It's that old joke about toothpaste being squeezed from the wrong end. When you're in the bathroom you're rushing about, you're in a hurry, it's the place where you're least likely to be tolerant."

At 55, though, Mary still manages to keep her Peter Pan



Mary Quant showing off her OBE which she received for her services to the fashion industry.

looks — and it's all down to discipline.

She says: "I think it's very important to stay slim. I hate the look of fat. I'm very aware if I put on two pounds because it goes straight to my face."

Besides eating healthily Mary manages to keep herself pencil-slim, by taking daily dips in her open-air heated swimming pool.

But it took some time for Mary to come round to the idea of motherhood.

The birth of Orlando, came after 13 years of marriage and at a time when the Plunket Greeces could afford to look after a child and still continue to maintain their business.

Mary recalls: "Certainly in the early days of the shop I'm sure I would have made a hash of motherhood and business. We couldn't have afforded a mother's help, our living quarters were cramped and I'd have been torn between motherhood and my work."

"But by that time, we were able to buy a house right round the corner from our office so that I could pop home and be with Orlando and we had good mother's help."

Staying stylish in a sari

Author, cook and actress Madhur Jaffrey talks about Eastern tastes

By Serena Allott

SOMEHOW one always expects Eastern people to fare better in the inner calm states than those born in the West.

Madhur Jaffrey proved the point admirably as she stood, serene, gracious and quite detached as my photographer and I blundered around a pocket-sized BBC apartment trying to clear a space large enough in which to take a photograph.

"I love Western clothes on other people," she says, arranging her purple sari around her as, the search abandoned, she settles on the sofa.

"But you have to be very tall to look good in them, and I'm just not the right shape. Most women seem to build a figure to suit the clothes they wear, so whereas English women train themselves to have a waist to the right place, Indian women tend to have wonderful bosoms and then forget about the rest because it's all hidden underneath a sari."

She laughs as she says it, as well she might. Madhur is surely much too well organised to forget about anything, let alone her figure.

Beneath the calm she has the strength and discipline to run simultaneous careers as a writer, cook and actress.

Her current confinement to the BBC flat is due to the filming of a new cookery series, but the visit from her New York home coincided neatly with the London opening of *The Perfect Murder* — a new Merchant-Ivory film in which she stars.

It was shot on location in India — the homeland Madhur misses for its smells and sounds and social life. "I'd never want to stay too long though, even though I love going back," she says. "Particularly to shop."

In India, she explains, shopping is an experience far removed from the crowded malls and communal changing rooms which we endure. "I remember going first with my mother," she says. "Now she



Madhur Jaffrey: not hindered by six yards of material

was a real shopper. She would sit on a chair while they sent out for tea and then one after another the saris would be unfolded before her ... It's still the same today and you might spend the whole afternoon in one shop. You can't rush buying a sari, the pleasure of it lies in the selection."

Once bought, she says, saris will last for years, although, contrary to what we in the West imagine, styles do come in and out of fashion. "Having been through a stage when rather garish modern dyes were used we're now seeing a revival of softer vegetable dyes, just as is happening with you," she says.

"And in the Twenties and Thirties, for instance, it was very fashionable to have saris made from French georgette or chiffon overlaid with a heavy gold Benares border. My mother had lots of those which my three sisters and I divided between us when she died."

Madhur's mother, she remembers, did everything in a sari, including playing tennis. "But I couldn't do that — saris do take quite some wearing. In my family you wore kurta and tang (a loose top and pyjamas) until you were about 16, and I can still remember feeling ready to be sick when I first wore a sari because I found it so constricting."

Madhur also remembers walking down Regent Street four years later when she was studying at RADA and having some kind of soul point out that her sari was falling off. "There were yards of fabric trailing behind me, so I scooped it all up and rushed to the lavatory of a Chinese restaurant to do it up."

Problem

Nowadays the main problem with her saris is finding someone in the West who knows how to care for them. While those in silk survive New York cleaners, her cotton ones are taken back to India to be laundered and starched.

Madhur also loves Indian jewellery. "I like very old Moghul styles," she says, her voice rich with pleasure. "I inherited quite a lot of pieces through my family. To me the height of stylishness is uncut diamonds set in Indian gold."

Indian women are not, it seems, afraid of dressing up nor of vying with each other over who is best turned out. Jewellery is good for point scoring, Madhur says, as are Kashmiri shawls, now priced on a par with mink.

"I was recently at a party in New York where I met a friend who had just flown in from India," Madhur says. "Before she even said hello she'd commented on my necklace and when I said I'd known she would notice it, she laughed in reply. 'Isn't that what we came for?' Well, I agree — it's nice to know one's made a good effect."

Koreans enjoy dog meat despite Olympic ban

SEOUL. South Korea: Seoul gourmets continue to enjoy dog stew, and Korean Olympic stars have been consuming barrels of snake soup despite government attempts to ban the traditional delicacies during the Summer Games.

The government banned sales in Seoul of dog meat, snake, blood worm soup and other exotic dishes for fear of offending foreigners during the Olympics. Officials said visitors might be upset by the unusual culinary offerings.

But the ban has had little or no effect on Seoul restaurants or the eating habits of their customers. Dog meat is still a lunchtime favorite in many backstreet eateries.

"Even the government officials eat it. They just tell us not to let foreigners see," said one restaurant owner, who asked not to be identified by name.

"The number of customers for dog has not dwindled. Not at all," said the man with a big smile.

Korean athletes while training for the Games ate dog



snakes and deer antlers to help build up their strength and stamina. Boxers, wrestlers and others believe eating dog and snake will give them the endurance and strength of the animals.

Seoul newspapers reported the Korea Amateur Hockey Association provided the coun-

try's women Olympic team with 28,000 US dollars worth of snake soup. Association officials declined to comment.

Star player Kim Kye-Sook was quoted by the Korea Herald as saying, "I was so surprised when the association officials brought the snake soup to us. But after taking the

soup, I felt much stronger."

Olympic soccer star Choi Soon-Ho was quoted as saying he ate 500 snakes as part of his summer training.

The Korean Amateur Wrestling Federation provided funds to the Olympic wrestling team to buy snake soup and "kaesoju", a mixture of dog meat and herbs that builds strength, newspapers reported.

Ban

Officials say a ban was imposed on dog meat in Seoul about five years ago because the government feared dog restaurants would offend Westerners.

Restaurant owners say city officials repeated warnings not to serve dog during the Olympics. But they said that officials told them restrictions would be eased after the Games.

A senior official, who declined to be identified by name, said the ban had backfired by focussing attention on the dog meat issue. He said it also stirred protests from many Koreans about ridiculing national tradition.

"The French eat snails and horses, and everyone says they are great eaters. Why shouldn't we eat dog meat," he said.

Koreans say dogs used for eating are especially raised just like cattle. They bridle at suggestions that pets are eaten and say they love and care for dogs as much as anyone.

A restaurant owner, who takes pride in his own special recipe for dog stew, said the food was a traditional part of Korean cooking and a part of the nation's culture. The meat is seasoned with garlic and other spices and usually served as stew.

"How can our indigenous habits be cast away in a day," the man said. "I'm sure this will not perish forever by any means."

Seoul municipal officials conceded the ban was very difficult to impose and it has had little impact. Dog meat restaurants are still legal in the rest of the country.

Restaurant owners caught selling dog meat three times in a year have their licences confiscated, officials said.



The largest diamond ever offered for sale at auction is more than 2 inches long, 1.38 inches wide and 1.1 inches deep, weighs 407.48 carats and has 65 facets.

By Godfrey Barker

A diamond as big as the Ritz?

CHRISTIE'S recently unveiled the second largest diamond ever made — a monster fancy yellow stone of 407.48 carats — and estimated that it would exceed \$20 million when it is auctioned in New York on Oct 19. It will, needless to say, be a new world record for a jewel.

Within hours Sotheby's announced that it had been sent the "Mandala Ruby," a cushion-shaped 48.02-carat stone which will be the largest faceted Burmese ruby ever seen at sale. It is expected to fetch more than \$15 million when sold in New York on Oct 18.

Record books were being ransacked at both auction houses to emphasise the majesty of the stones.

Unusual

The Christie's diamond is second in size only to the Cullinan 1, also known as the Great Star of South Africa, which weighs 530.2 carats and is set in the Imperial Sceptre of the Crown Jewels of the United Kingdom.

This new gem was made just four years ago from a giant 890-carat rough diamond, found to Christie's best belief (the

owners have not been precise) in South Africa. It was cut first into a 530-carat jewel and found to contain inclusions and to be of less than perfect shape; it is now flawless.

The diamond comes in an unusual shield shape for which a new word, "triolette," has been invented by one of its owners, the New York dealer Mr Marvin Samuel.

As the stone will bear the name of its new owner after auction, "it will offer an opportunity for immortality," said M. Francois Curiel of Christie's New York jewellery department. The diamond is at present called after the Samuels, Glick and Zale syndicate of New York and Dallas, Texas, which is selling it.

The world record for a jewel has been broken twice already in 12 months; the Sotheby's ruby and the Christie's diamond will break it a third and fourth time to make 1988 an annus mirabilis for precious

stones.

Until last October, the dearest gem was the 41.28-carat Polar Star diamond which made \$5,086,705 in 1980. Then a 64.83-carat pear-shaped diamond cost \$6.38 million; in April 1988 an 85.91-carat pear-shaped diamond made \$9,310,000, the day after a 52.59-carat rectangular cut diamond sold for \$7,480,000.

Treasured

Sotheby's ruby is not merely Burmese, the most treasured variety, but more than a century old; it appeared in London in 1896 and was sold to the agent of an Indian princely family, its name, the "Mandala," is a recent invention.

● About \$1 million worth of jewels of the late Andy Warhol have been found under the bottom drawer of a filing cabinet in his storeroom, Sotheby's announced in New York. They will be sold at auction on Dec 4.

The find, which means that the Warhol jewels auction last April was merely the minor part of his collection, includes a quantity of unmounted stones, gems by Cartier, Van Cleef, Elsa Peretti and David Webb, diamonds ranging up to a 1.6 carat black stone, a 300-carat emerald, and 96 watches.



By Richard Kay

Jewel of the crown is a ping-pong ball

NEARLY 20 years after the crowning glory of Charles' investiture as Prince of Wales, a bizarre royal secret is out.

The golden sphere which glistened on top of the magnificent gem-encrusted crown he wore with such dignity on his great day was nothing more than a humble ping-pong ball — pen tennis hwdd in Welsh.

Last week the man who made the crown for the ceremony in July 1969 revealed how a TV sports programme gave him the inspiration for a necessary piece of hoodwinking.

Mr David Mason, now the head of a group of West Midlands metal finishing companies, was faced with the

weighty problem of placing a solid ball of the precious metal at the peak of the crown.

"It was obvious that a lump of gold was going to be too heavy," he said. "The Prince would have been bowed down by the sheer weight."

"The headache was to find a light, hollow structure. Ten days before the investiture we were still scratching our heads."

"Then it suddenly came to me when I was watching a table tennis tournament on television. A ping-pong ball would be ideal."

The ball was silver-coated to conduct a current and then placed in a vat of gold, said Mr Mason, who developed a

The solid ball of gold on the Prince of Wales' crown (left) is in fact a gold-plated ping-pong ball.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
| 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 |
| 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 |
| 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 |

ACROSS

1 Sloughs off
6 Short drive
10 Supporting
13 TV trial run
14 City on the Brazos
15 Gretzky's target
16 City on the Mohawk
17 IOU signer
18 Border for a coat of arms
19 Rice, in Nice
20 Booked the boondocks
23 Procrastinated
25 Gigantic
26 — the land of the free...
27 Stranger
31 Portuguese cape
34 Smaller than usual stock package
36 Stop — dima
37 Damages
39 Apollo's son
40 Husk corn
42 WWII sector
43 Round up
46 To — (exactly)
47 Soma pavements
49 Aurora's Greek counterpart
51 Hang fire
52 Near enough to shoot at
56 Skipped out
60 Dockar's org.
61 Right hand
62 "Thanks —"
63 Hang over
65 Aspersions
66 Naldi of the movies
67 "Lat's Make —"
68 Spigot
69 Ruby, Sandra

DOWN

7 London
29 Nursemaid
30 Conlar and cagars
31 Nonflying bird
32 Felt one's —
33 Appeared unexpectedly
35 Gossip
38 Skimp
41 — mind to (plans on)
44 Pro
45 Meshy fabric
48 One who toes the line
50 Annia, for one
52 White
53 Dapper David of films
54 Gather bit by bit
55 — bird
56 Eschaw chewing
57 Kadrova of "Zorba the Greek"
58 Nobelists Wiesel
59 Shelter for awe's usa
64 Harem room

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

HEATER PORE STA
ALPINE EREMITIC
LASCAR RIDICULE
ENE CURIO TINTS
ETNA LOSE
PSALM PLEA SUMP
ECCLESIA TITTER
OAR NODDIES ITO
ARISTA ENNOBLED
LEDA RANK LEERS
FAST LEAN
ASSAM TRENT PET
INTRIGUE AIRTIER
DILIGENT TOOTLE
APO QLES ENCAISE

GOVERN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TO EACH HIS OWN

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 8
♥ Q 9 3 2
♦ 4 3
♣ A K J 8 6 2

WEST
♠ A J 10 9 7 6
♥ J 6
♦ A 8 5
♣ Q 3

EAST
♠ Q 3 2
♥ K 10 8 7 4
♦ Q 9 7 6
♣ 9

SOUTH
♠ K 5 4
♥ A 5
♦ K J 10 2
♣ 10 7 5 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ 1 ♣
2 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

The Bible should be compulsory reading for bridge players — it contains much sage advice. For instance, consider this morsel of wisdom: "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's." Had West but followed that dictum, we would have had nothing to write about.

West was unnecessarily cautious

in the bidding. Once his partner could raise spades, West should probably have competed with four spades. He was looking at seven or eight playing tricks in his own hand, and his partner had raised. As the cards lie, four spades has a shot if the defense makes the slightest slip.

West compounded his timidity in the bidding with a poor choice of opening lead. Reluctant to present declarer with a spade trick that he might not be able to make on his own. West chose to lead the jack of hearts. Declarer played low from dummy, East signalled encouragement with the eight and declarer held up the ace. There was still time to switch to a spade, but West thought he had struck gold.

Declarer won the heart continuation with the ace and led a club to the table's king. A diamond to the ten was allowed to win, and declarer crossed back to the ace of clubs to repeat the diamond finesse. When that brought the ace from West, all was well. Declarer scooped up six club tricks, two diamond tricks and the ace of hearts.

Obviously, the contract goes down with a spade lead. Declarer does get a spade trick, but that gives him only eight tricks *in toto*.

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

LOOK... ROD... THERE LIGHTING UP OUR LANDING SITE WITH TORCHES!

YEAH... AND UNLESS THIS IS THE HAYING SEASON, YOU'RE GOING TO GET A 21-PITCH FORK SALUTE

WHY IN THE WORLD DID YOU PUT YOUR BEST PITCHER ON WANERS?

HIS SPIT GLANDS DRIED UP.

YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)
You will feel somewhat more at ease today. You will have a bit of good luck but it will not be enough to allow you to change things radically. You will be able to do something you enjoy doing. Be moderate.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
You will tend to be a little apprehensive but relax, there is no real need. You will tend to spend too much time watching television. Do not lose faith in yourself. Be a little more generous.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)
You will find it easier to do what has to be done. You should try to stop having little snacks between meals. Do all you can to maintain your inner peace of mind. Be a little less intolerant.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19
You will be have to deal with a problem that you had not thought about sufficiently in advance. Do not place quite so much reliance on intuition and "know-how"; more on reason. Have a little more patience both with yourself and with others.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
You will have to deal with something of a puzzle but it will soon resolve itself. A friend of yours will stand by you. Make sure you do not do anything that would go against your principles. Be hopeful.

Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)
A tendency towards untidiness must be dealt with before you get into too great a muddle. You will be better able to enjoy yourself. You will know how to deal with a rather unusual situation. Be cautious.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
Everything will go like a house on fire today but you should not overdo things. You will tend to be in too much of a hurry and should slow down just a little. Make sure your health is well looked after. Be cordial.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)
The general situation is not as clear as you would like it to be and you should be on your guard. If you use a little more commonsense and show somewhat more goodwill all will be well. Do not allow work to interfere with your personal life.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)
Avoid all kinds of exaggerations and do not exceed reasonable limits. You will tend to be impulsive and will find it a little hard to control yourself. There is no point in trying to resist change. Be resilient.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You will have to combat a tendency to lose sight of your objectives. Something you are learning will prove to be harder than you first thought, but persevere. You will be able to make a few changes for the better.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)
You will be better able to do what has to be done and your expertise will be of great help to you. Make sure you do not allow yourself to spend more than an evening. You will have to make a few readjustments. Be watchful.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)
You will find it easier to be more practical than you have been of late. You should try to rid yourself of preconceptions and prejudices. Do not expect more from others than you have a right to. Be conciliatory.

SCIENCE

Spiders' silk is 100 times thinner than hair and stronger than steel of the same thickness

Probing the world of spiders

By Frances Hardy

DR FRITZ VOLLRATH lives in an Oxford suburb, in an overgrown house that has something in common with Miss Havisham's in Great Expectations.

You see, Dr Vollrath has a positively indulgent way with spiders. He absolutely refuses to clear away their cobwebs. He lets them spin silk skeins all over his living room and scuttle around the bathroom, which they festoon with a chaotic tangle of webs.

Visitors are, he concedes, often perturbed, even terrified. But Dr Vollrath, 39, only laughs dismissively at them, blue eyes sparkling under a thatch of boyish hair. He indulges the spiders not because he is fond of them ("They are really quite anti-social creatures") but because they create such beautiful webs.

At Oxford University Zoology Department — where his room has an ominous picture of a tarantula adorning the door — German-born Dr Vollrath is researching the secrets of spiders' silk and web-building.

"Spiders' silk is 100 times thinner than hair and a lot stronger than steel of the same thickness. It is tougher than Kevlar (the strongest man-made material). It is not only strong, but also very elastic. It has to absorb the kinetic energy of an insect flying into it."

"It is made of a composite very much like fibreglass (the strength of which is derived

At the Oxford University zoology department, German-born Dr Vollrath researches secrets of spiders' silk and web-building

from fibres of glass mixed with resin), crystals of protein in a rubber-like mass. Individually they are brittle. Together they are incredibly strong."

Now biotechnologists are even claiming to have discovered a way of turning spiders' silk into bullet-resistant material for Army flak jackets. At a lab in Royston, Hertfordshire, they are isolating the gene sequence for manufacturing drag-line silk (the sort the spider spins to stop him falling earthward).

Injects

They inject the instructions into a bacterium which (figuratively) gets weaving on the silk, making the spider redundant. The possibilities are legion. Spiders' silk could eventually be used in structural engineering.

The spiders' own engineering techniques are incredible enough. Dr Vollrath, who lent some of his spider colony and expertise to the biotechnologists, explained: "An adult garden spider, the Orbicular spider — we'll call her Charlotte — spins 30 metres of silk each day. Her web is about the size of a car steering wheel."

"It takes her about 20 minutes to make it. She starts by

putting down spokes. Next she spins a tough, coarse scaffolding spiral (from the inside out) then a sticky spiral (from the outside in). The sticky spiral is the scaffolding spiral."

"She is up just before sunrise, spinning away before the birds and wasps — her enemies — are active. It is a dangerous life for a spider. More dangerous still if you happen to be a male spider."

Males, unless they are very canny, are eaten by the females after mating. The clever ones are usually crab spiders. They spin silk bonds to tie their mate to the ground, so they have a head start when she comes chasing after them.

Others, hunting spiders, make a present of food to the female to appease her. Then there are the opportunists who approach the female only when she is gorging on a fly to her web, in the hope (usually vain) that she will be too sated to bother with them afterwards.

"Charlotte builds a new web every day. It is a costly process in terms of energy consumption. She'll need to eat a quarter of a bluebell to get the energy to build a web. Some days she might not even catch a fly. When she does, her web is destroyed and she has to build a

new one.

"Webs are primarily means of catching food. They're also an early warning system — they vibrate when enemies like birds are approaching — and they provide a protective shield against marauding wasps."

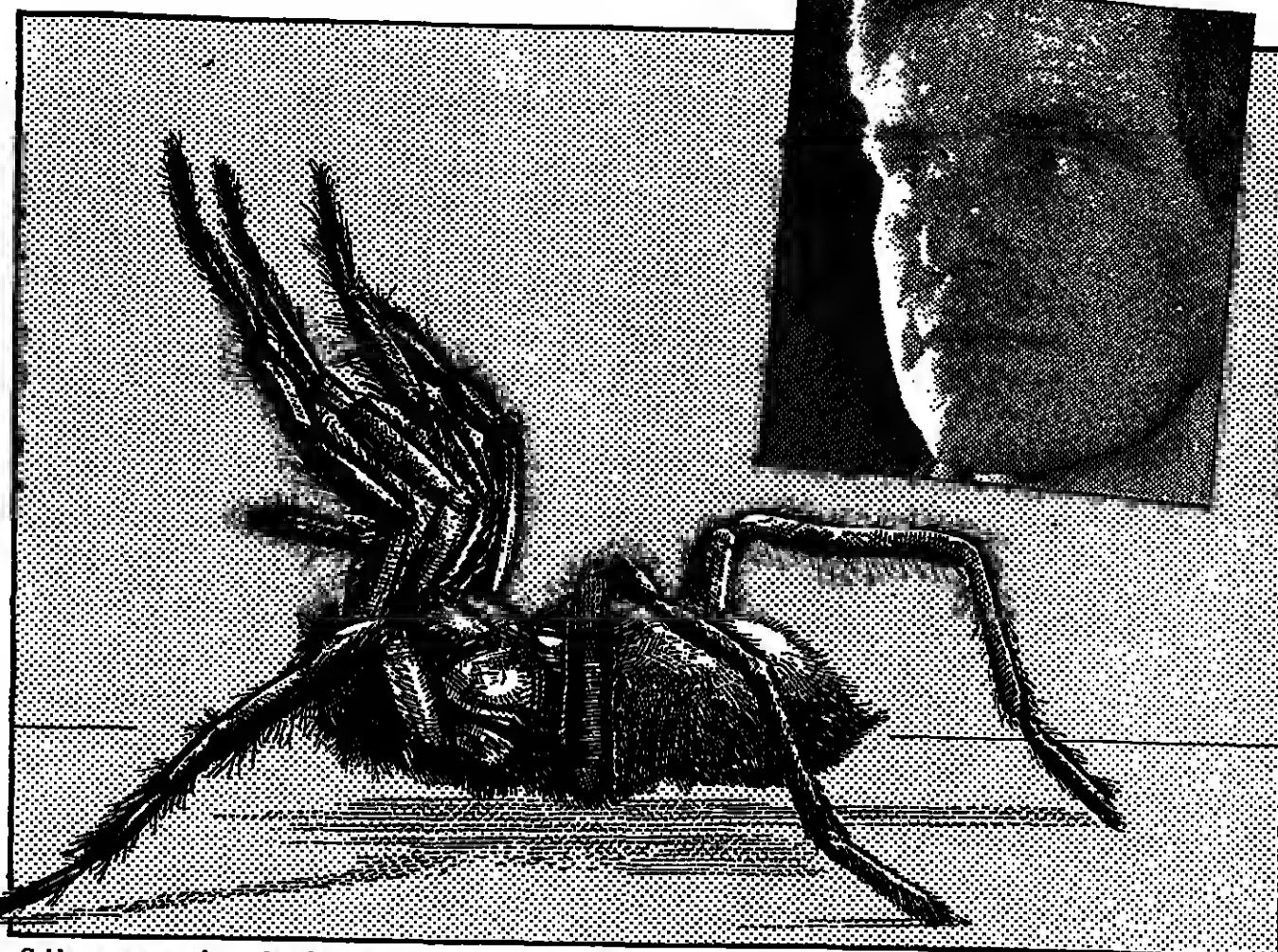
"Charlotte does not discard her old webs. She eats them and recycles them a day later. We know it takes a day for the silk to process through. We have experimented by making the webs radioactive, so they glow. The recycling process is 95 per cent efficient."

Mature male garden spiders don't build webs. They do nearly all their eating in early life and stop weaving just past puberty. They are consigned to a pitifully short, dreary existence which consists of eating, mating, then getting eaten."

"Both male and female spin drag-lines — the silk is even stronger than the web variety — which allow them to live in a three-dimensional habitat," explains Dr Vollrath. The drag-line, which is as long as a spider walks each day, is a safety rope to stop the spider falling and he is paying it out all the time.

Cruise

Spiders cruise around in the sky like Richard Branson in his stratospheric balloon. They are carried up in the wind on strands of drag-line. They are alive, but frozen," says Dr Vollrath. They are cold-blooded and have anti-freeze in their bodies, just like we put in cars — and the Austrians put in wine. It stops them shattering like a frozen bottle of milk."



Spiders are aggressive anti-social creatures, says their researcher Dr Fritz Vollrath (inset).

Webs are constructed in multifarious patterns. There are five varieties in Britain: Dome, Tanglefoot, Orbicular, Funnel and the dusty, chaotic cobweb sort. The Tanglefoot web has an inbuilt trapping mechanism for unwary prey.

"The spider — a globular little spider called a Theridion — puts droplets of glue on the strands of web which are fixed to the ground. When an ant

scuttles across, it gets stuck and is lifted aloft as the strand of silk detaches from the ground. The funnel web has a sheet of sticky silk to ensnare food, then a funnel-like retreat in which the spider lives."

Spiders' silk was used for gun sights, because it is regular and very thin. It has also been used commercially, by the French in Madagascar in Victorian times. They used spiders called Big

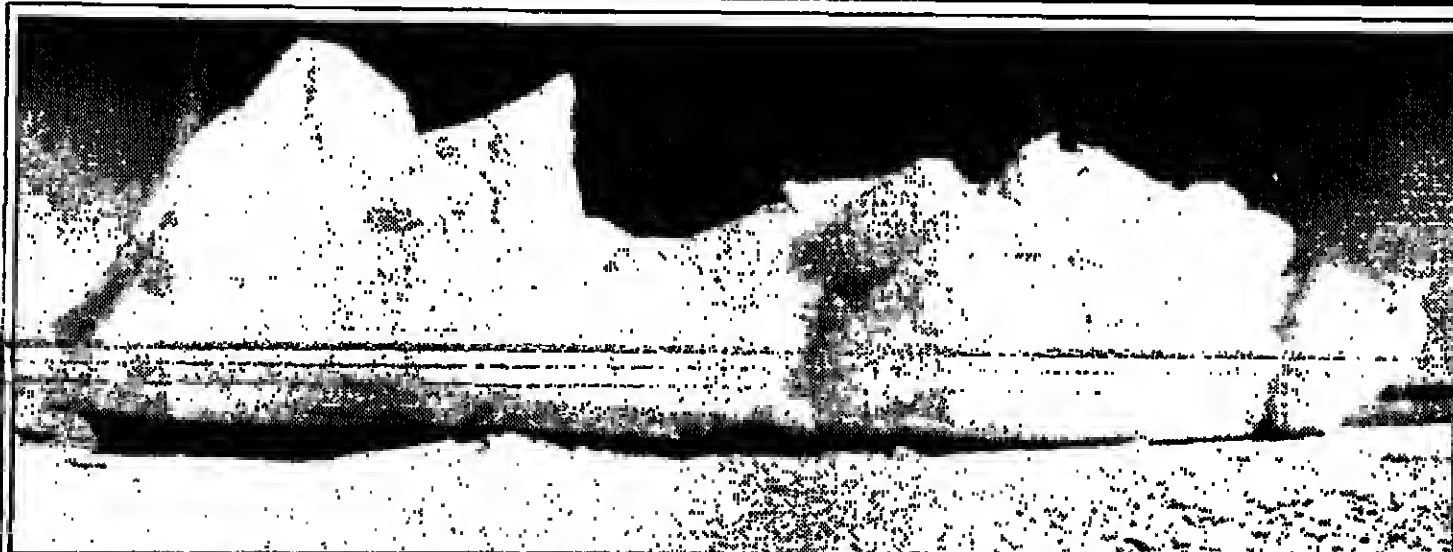
Golden Orb Weavers which produce 500 metres of silk each day. They also eat each other — unlike mild-mannered silkworms, which co-exist quite amicably on the same hush — so the Madagascar enterprise was short-lived.

"Garden spiders will eat each other too, given half a chance. If two females find themselves on the same web, the bigger one will eat the smaller. They bite as

well, and secrete a tiny amount of poison. Not enough to bother a human, but they can give quite a nasty nip."

"There are some social spiders, but they don't live in England. I'm afraid. Generally they're really very, very aggressive creatures," muses Dr Vollrath.

"But they do make such extraordinarily beautiful webs."



Antarctica: scientists say the southern ice cap is moving back as a result of climatic changes

Antarctica melting due to greenhouse effect

SYDNEY, Australia. (AP): Antarctica's vast ice cap is melting gradually and sea levels are rising, mainly because of a world warming trend believed caused by the "greenhouse effect," an Australian scientist said recently.

Ian Allison, a senior research officer and glaciologist at the Australian government's Antarctic Division in Hobart, used satellite data to suggest the southern ice cap is "moving back" as a result of climatic change.

Allison presented a paper to 1,200 scientists from 55 countries gathered for the 26th Geographical Congress, a quadrennial assembly. Ecologists have said future monitoring of Antarctica is essential to gauge the impact of the so-called greenhouse effect. Scientists have also warned that low-lying South Pacific nations will

Scientists attribute the problem of the greenhouse effect to an ever-increasing buildup of carbon dioxide, methane and other trace gases in the atmosphere.

became swamped by rising sea levels.

Scientists attribute the problem of the greenhouse effect to an ever-increasing buildup of carbon dioxide, methane and other trace gases in the atmosphere.

They estimate that sea levels will rise by up to one metre (3.3 feet) during the next 30 to 40 years.

Allison said records kept since the 1950s show evidence of rising temperatures on the Antarctic coast paralleling those in the rest of the world.

Satellite pictures also showed sea ice surrounding the continent has decreased since the data

became available in the early 1970s. He predicted this will continue.

"We should be continuing this monitoring because we are looking at a sensitive surface, probably one of the first in the world to respond to changes occurring in the climate," he said.

Allison said Antarctica's response to the 1950s temperature increases was slow and the warming of existing water bodies would be much quicker and "more certain."

Antarctica, which is rich in minerals, covers the bottom of the world. Many countries, ranging from Malaysia in South-

east Asia to Australia and Chile as well as China and the United States, have land claims there.

Environmental organisations such as Greenpeace have warned that world greed for minerals could ignite military conflict in the unspoiled wilderness.

The conference also was told that studies in New Zealand showed that the greenhouse effect was changing that country's snowfields and rivers.

Blair Fitzharris, lecturer at the University of Otago's Department of Geography in New Zealand, said an enhanced greenhouse climate would lead to a rise in snowline of 300 to 400 metres (yards) and a decrease in snow below 2,300 metres over the next 40 years.

"Snow storage will only be half of what it is today and there will be a big change in the runoff rivers," he said.

NASA confident of return to space

More than half a million people are expected to jam viewing areas to watch space shuttle Discovery's fiery departure on Sept 29, as America returns to manned space flight after two and a half years.

By Howard Benedict

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida. (AP): More than 2 1/2 years after the space shuttle Challenger and its crew of seven disintegrated in a cold, blue sky, America is ready to return to manned space flight.

The shuttle Discovery is poised on shuttle launch pad 39B. Five astronauts, all veterans of earlier shuttle flights, are traileed and eager, though aware of the risks. Launch and flight-control teams are set for liftoff on Sept 29.

Success would take a great psychological burden off the back of the space agency and the country. Another failure could devastate the space programme.

"We clearly cannot afford to lose another vehicle, much less another crew. I don't think the manned space flight programme could withstand another Challenger," said Frederick Hauck, the 47-year-old navy captain who commands Discovery's crew.

Engineers had hoped to launch Discovery last February, but technical problems and delays in testing new systems slipped the date to June, then to August and September.

Hauck said he believes everything possible has been done to make the shuttle safe.

Complicated

The other crew members are air force Col Richard O. Covey, 42, the pilot, and three mission specialists, George D. Nelson, 38, John M. Lounge, 42, and Marine Lt Col David C. Hilmers, 38.

During four days in orbit, they are to deploy a 100-million-dollar communications satellite, conduct 11 science and technology



Pilot Dick Covey (left) and Commander Dick Hauck wear the new flight suits that have been designed in case the astronauts use the new escape system on the shuttle. The team is set for lift-off on September 29.

experiments, and test design changes made to the orbiter.

The tracking and data relay satellite will help ground controllers keep track of future shuttles and unmanned spacecraft orbiting the earth.

Covey reported the flight will be less complicated than most previous missions because the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has elected to take a conservative approach.

"We're not breaking any new ground," he said.

On launch day, the crew will remember the Challenger astronauts, and they plan a special memorial in orbit.

"If we ever do forget what happened to Challenger, it's going to be a sad day, because we might just become complacent once again," said Hilmers.

More than a half-million people are expected to jam viewing areas to watch Discovery's fiery departure. More than 3,000 news media representatives from around the world will be here, many of them kept several kilometres away because of NASA's new concerns about the possibility of an accident during launch.

There has not been this much excitement over a manned space flight since astronauts rocketed to the moon two decades ago.

There were large crowds for the first shuttle launches in 1981, but after 24 successful missions, interest had waned.

Only 600 news-people were on hand for Challenger's launch, and that was more than had shown up for the three previous flights because of passenger Christa McAuliffe, a high school teacher who was to have taught lessons from orbit.

Space flight had become routine. The bubble burst on that frigid winter day on Jan 28, 1986, when Challenger erupted into a giant fireball more than 13 kilometres above the Atlantic, 73 seconds after liftoff.

The world was shocked. Before the day was out most Americans had seen the endless television replays of the world's worst space disaster that had claimed the lives of five men and two women. Millions of schoolchildren who had planned to view McAuliffe's lessons were badly shaken.

What had gone wrong? The Rogers Commission that investigated the accident for President Ronald Reagan said the direct cause was a leak at a joint between segments of one of Challenger's two solid fuel booster rockets. Superheated gases and flames shot past two synthetic rubber o-rings and touched off an explosion of the large external fuel tank.

The commission report said cold weather, 2.2 degrees Celsius at liftoff, contributed to the accident by stiffening the o-rings, preventing them from sealing the joint properly.

The report found troubling

lapses in judgement, expertise, communications and management within the space agency. It cited NASA documents showing prior instances where soot was found on recovered boosters, indicating they had leaked in their two minutes of flight.

Engineers deep in the structure of NASA had known as early as 1984 that leaking seals on the boosters threatened disaster. A quiet programme to develop a new booster design had been started at the Marshall Space Flight Centre and at Morton Thiokol, the Utah manufacturer of the rocket.

By the meantime, NASA expressed confidence in the boosters, and withheld any concerns from the public and even from the astronauts.

A member of the Rogers Commission later described the decision to continue flying as playing "Russian Roulette" with a flawed and dangerous system.

Within months, NASA had a new administrator and other top officials, the directors of three major field centres involved with the shuttle left, and all those involved in the decision to launch were replaced.

There were wholesale resignations and duty changes at Marshall, and at Morton Thiokol. NASA established a new safety and quality control office.

Astronauts and former astronauts were placed in key decision-making positions to give the flight crews a larger voice in what was happening.

Engineers at Marshall and Morton Thiokol redesigned the rocket joint, adding a third o-ring, better insulation, a heater and another modification to prevent a gap opening under the pressure of ignition.

NASA also took the time to redesign parts. In all, 56 major changes and more than 400 lesser ones have been made to the vehicle. The programme to redesign all three shuttles so far has cost about \$2.4 billion.

Reagan ordered a replacement shuttle for Challenger, at a cost of \$2.8 billion. The new craft is starting to take shape at a Rockwell international facility in California.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By Dr Allan Bruckheim

QUESTION: My wife insists that my smoking makes it more likely that I will become sick with a lung infection. It hasn't happened so far. Is she right?

ANSWER: She most certainly is. If you smoke, you change the function of your lungs, so that they cannot fight infections that healthy lungs fight every day. The changes in a smoker's lungs include physical changes such as narrowed airways and chemical changes, such as an altered immune system. As a result of these changes, smokers are more likely to get bronchitis, pneumonia and emphysema. The good news is that these changes are reversed when smoking is stopped. Of course, the quicker you stop smoking, the better off you'll be. And if you never smoke, you'll have the healthiest lungs possible.

Smoking causes a 50 per cent to 75 per cent decrease in the smell and taste functions of the nose and mouth. Vocal cord and throat irritation caused by smoking contribute to a cough and hoarseness. Changes in the airways occur long before symptoms are noticed by the smoker. Within 10 seconds of the first inhaled cigarette smoke, large airway function declines, and after the first two cigarettes, small airway constriction occurs. One cigarette depresses for several hours the

SMOKERS MORE LIKELY TO GET LUNG INFECTIONS

activity of tiny hairs in the respiratory tract that help keep the airways cleaned of infectious agents. Magnify these effects by many cigarettes every day for a number of years, and you can begin to understand why smokers get lung infections easily and why they can't overcome colds as quickly as non-smokers.

Because smokers often are battling lung infections, they must take more antibiotics than non-smokers. Antibiotics have side effects, and many people develop resistance to them after several courses. The best solution is not to have to take them at all, but persons with lung infections don't often have a choice.

If you're a smoker and have not experienced an increased number and severity of lung infections, don't think you are immune to problems. With each day of smoking, more changes occur in your respiratory tract. The changes may be silent for several years, only causing problems after the damage is done. If you want to check your lung function, inquire about spirometry tests. These tests measure the capacity of the airways, which is a good indication of smoking damage.

Some physicians recommend that flu shots are especially important to smokers,

because they will most likely suffer complications if they get influenza. The most important therapy, however, is to quit smoking as soon as possible. If you want to quit smoking, ask your family doctor about helping you. Many family physicians have taken up arms against the health risks caused by smoking and are eager to help you quit the habit.

ACROSS MY DESK: When several cases of a disease, in this case testicular cancer, are found in one place, they are called a "cluster" and suspicious about a common cause are raised. Recently three cases of testicular cancer were noted in men who worked on the same spray line at a tannery in Gloversville, N.Y. The suspected cancer-causing chemical is dimethylformamide (DMF), already associated with reports of testicular cancer among workers in the aircraft industry, although it is not yet classified as a carcinogen in medical literature. A \$17 million suit is being filed on behalf of the workers against the company that manufactured the chemical, and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTUWU) has requested the New York State Health Department to investigate.

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ANDY CAPP

By Smith



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Leading industrial nations await market response

Ministers paint upbeat picture of world economy

WEST BERLIN, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Leading industrial nations painted an upbeat picture of the global economy but nervously waited today for financial markets to reopen to see if investors agreed with them.

After congratulating themselves in talks in West Berlin that they were doing a fine job guiding the world economy, industrial nations' finance ministers were faced with about 10,000 demonstrators today telling them different.

Protesters from church, environmental and radical left-wing groups used the occasion of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meeting to voice anger at policies they say bankrupted the Third World and harmed the environment.

Organisers had expected about 40,000 to participate.

Scheme
The demonstrators seemed little impressed with a scheme unveiled at the weekend by major nations to help out the poorest countries — mainly in sub-Saharan Africa — by giving them some financial breaks on their horrendous debt.

But, while mindful of the security risks posed by the demonstrations — nearly 9,000 police are on a round-the-clock vigil — policymakers seemed



US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady (left) smiles as he talks to Iraqi Finance Minister Omar Al-Hadi (right) prior to the meeting of the Interim Committee in West Berlin yesterday morning. (Reuters wirephoto)

more concerned with the response of the markets to their meetings.

"Now we wait to see what the

markets think," a Japanese official said.

The finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of

Seven nations said inflation was under control and currency rates should stay where they are. But that does not mean the markets

will agree when they reopen tomorrow.

Speculators sorely tested the commitment of major nations to stable currency rates last month by bidding up the dollar on foreign exchange markets.

The Group of Seven (G-7) — Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and West Germany — were forced to spend billions of dollars to halt the US currency's rise.

In an apparent attempt to head off another speculative assault on the dollar, the G-7 dropped from their statement on Saturday some key wording on currency policy that had been co-opted to their last three communiqués.

That wording — that the group did not want a further fall of the dollar or a rise that could be deemed counterproductive — was taken by speculators as a green light to buy dollars after it was repeated by G-7 leaders at their summit in June.

This time around, economic policymakers simply emphasised their continued interest in stable exchange rates and backed that up with public statements at press briefings afterwards.

"The G-7 communiqué expresses a certain positive assessment of the current level (of exchange rates)," West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stol-

tenberg said.

But there was some concern here that the latest communiqué was so vaguely worded that it might convince speculators to have another go at bidding up the dollar.

Economic policymakers were also holding their breath over the market reaction to another part of the communiqué — that dealing with inflation.

"There is little evidence of a general inflationary threat," the G-7 said in its weekend statement.

Japanese officials made clear that meant the G-7 did not see any threat of global inflation, but that the group recognised that some members could still face problems with rising prices.

Outlook

The International Monetary Fund singled out the United States as a potential problem area in an annual economic outlook released today. America was "very close to the point at which acceleration of inflation is a significant danger."

If speculators think the same way, Washington's Central Bank could again be forced into raising interest rates.

And that in turn could upset the G-7's finely crafted pact to stabilise currencies by increasing the attractiveness of the dollar to international investors.

South Korea to boost Third World loan

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept. 25. (AP): South Korea will add 130 billion won (\$180.5 million) next year to its official aid loan fund for developing countries, creating a pool of 250 billion won (\$347.2 million), the finance ministry said today.

The Economic Development Co-operation Fund was set up last year to make use of the country's huge current account surplus and deepen its economic ties with less-developed Asian, African and Latin American countries through the extension of low-interest, long-term loans.

Projects
Officials said the government was screening applications from 20 countries for financing for 46 development and other projects worth a combined \$589 million.

Most of the loan requests were for construction of roads, railways and harbours, they said. The government last year approved a \$13-million loan for a road construction project in Indonesia and \$10 million in financing for Nigerian purchases of South Korean-made rolling stock.

Loans from the fund are extended to foreign governments or state-run corporations and are repayable in Korean currency within 20 years, after a grace period of up to five years, and at an annual interest rate of 4-5 per cent.

Saudis and Libya praise IAEA's aid role

VIENNA, Sept. 25. (OPECNA): Saudi Arabia has praised the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for extending technical assistance to developing countries in their search for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

In an address to the IAEA general conference which ended yesterday, the leader of the Saudi Arabian delegation, Ambassador Issa Al Nuwaiser, said the share of developing countries in nuclear energy needed to be increased.

Obligations

He declared Saudi support for the agency's programmes and, while reminding the delegates of the kingdom's prompt fulfilment of its financial obligations to international organisations, called on countries which had not paid their assessed IAEA contributions so far to do so to enable the agency to accomplish its work.

Libya expressed appreciation for the technical assistance extended by the agency to developing countries. A number of IAEA-sponsored programmes are under implementation in the country.

The Libyan delegate said the agency's support was necessary for the development of programmes in Africa and the Middle East, as in other developing regions, in power generation, agriculture, industry and medicine.

He said Libya was considering the use of alternative sources of energy to generate power.

Global expansion strong, Inflation still worrisome

Japanese, US production, incomes seen growing faster

WEST BERLIN, Sept. 25. (Agencies): Production and incomes will grow faster this year in Japan, the United States and West European countries than was expected after last October's stock market crash, the International Monetary Fund predicts.

"The upward revision to the output projections has been particularly large in the case of Japan, where production is now expected to grow by over 5.5 per cent in 1988," said the fund's semi-annual "world economic outlook."

Growth
A slowdown to 4.2 per cent is seen for 1989.

US growth is expected to be 4 per cent, the highest rate since 1984. But a greater slowdown is predicted in 1989 to 2.8 per cent, a return to the 1987 figure which

was the lowest since the recession in 1982.

A fund official said that growth rates this year are higher than the long-term trend, due partly to the delayed effect of the drop in the price of the dollar and the price of oil.

The cheaper dollar gave a boost to US exports, which became cheaper and more saleable. Cheaper oil lowers production costs in many countries.

To get the average national income, experts just divide total production — the "gross national product" — by the total population. Since population grows by only 1 per cent or less in Japan and Western industrial countries, average incomes rise almost as fast as production.

Growth has also revived in West Germany and France, the report said. It attributed the

pickup to an increase in domestic demand for goods. In France, that included more investment by business in new buildings and machinery, and higher exports.

Rate

Declines in the growth rate are also foreseen for other major countries between 1988 and 1989 from 2.9 to 2.4 for Italy, 4 to 2.5 for Britain, and 4.2 to 3.2 for Canada.

Canada, Britain and Italy are also reported growing fast this year. In Australia, Spain and Sweden the fund reported fears of "overheating," such fast growth that there is a danger of a fast rise in prices as well.

Asian countries, which have had the fastest growing economies in recent years, were seen as due for a slight setback in 1989, their growth rate expected to drop to 6.3 per cent from 7.3.

Business is said to be slightly better in the Third World too, with the growth rate rising from 3.4 in 1987 to 4 per cent in 1989. But some of those countries are increasing their population almost as fast, so that incomes rise little if at all.

The International Monetary Fund, with a weather eye on inflation, said that economic expansion in the industrial countries had accelerated much faster than had been expected.

Outlook
But the leading agency's world economic outlook also said the Third World had not been helped much by the upturn as its debts continued to weigh heavily on efforts at economic renewal. Finance ministers of the West's leading industrial powers announced yesterday action to ease the Third World debt crisis

that could save the poorest nations up to \$500 million a year.

French Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy called the debt accord, sealing an initiative unveiled at a Toronto summit last June, "good news for the world economy."

A British source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, described the leaders' talks as "very constructive."

"There was no banging on the table or anything like that," he said. "They were very much united in what needs to be done." In reviewing the world economic performance, the leaders said: "Growth is continuing at a faster pace than expected earlier in the year. Employment has increased. There has also been a strong increase in investment. Inflation pressures are being contained."

US personal income growing further

IMF-G-7 meeting unlikely to produce any shocks

THE market was quiet last week as US data continued on balance to display a slowdown in economic growth. However, inflationary concerns remain. Consumer spending continues to hold up strongly reflecting further gains in personal income.

Inflation continues to edge ahead with the consumer price index rising by 0.4 per cent in August to an annual seasonally adjusted rate of 4.6 per cent.

Whilst interest rates edged ahead slightly on the inflation figures, the dollar was broadly unchanged during the week at DM1.87 and ¥134.4. As for US bonds they closed slightly lower pressured by recovering gold and commodity prices and the marginal increase in interest rates. Equities retreated with the higher interest rates and on the publication of the higher than expected budget deficit.

Increased

Real GNP increased by 3.0 per cent in the second quarter to a seasonally adjusted revised annual rate of \$29.1 billion. GNP deflator rose at an annual rate of 5.5 per cent in the second quarter of 1988. It was the largest rise

since 5.8 per cent to the third quarter 1982.

Consumer price index increased by a seasonally adjusted 0.4 per cent in August after a 0.3 per cent rise in July. For the first eight months of this year the annual seasonally adjusted rate was 4.6 per cent compared with 4.6 per cent for the whole of 1987. Housing starts fell 3.3 per cent in August to a seasonally adjusted rate of 1,436,000 units after a revised July rise of 1.4 per cent to 1,485,000 units. Personal income increased by 0.2 per cent in August to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$4,078.5 billion.

Stability

Personal consumption was up 0.5 per cent in August after revised increases of 0.3 per cent in July and 1.3 per cent in June. Durable goods orders rose a seasonally adjusted 6 per cent. However this followed a revised decline of 7.4 per cent in July which was the largest for more than four years.

With the IMF and G-7 meeting taking place this week, and the forthcoming presidential elections in November, international policy makers can be

expected to adhere to a general consensus of co-operation in an effort to maintain stability in the financial markets and prevent any major market oscillations.

The meeting is unlikely to provide any shocks and whilst ministers will be congratulating themselves that as a consequence of their economic policies pursued economic growth this year has been better than expected in the aftermath of the stock market crash, there will undoubtedly be further calls for the US to address its yawning budget deficit — and for West Germany to relax its recent firming in monetary conditions.

There will be the usual statement of a commitment to stable exchange rates and the financial markets in general, with greater policy co-operation implied.

Whilst inflationary pressure has not totally subsided indications of moderately lower economic activity in the US, suggests that interest rates for the immediate future have probably plateaued. Any upward pressure on the dollar can be expected to be met by strong central authority intervention at current

parities. This has given credence to the view that international policy makers do not wish to see the US unit to higher. Therefore for the immediate future the dollar can be expected to trade narrowly within current trading ranges.

Trading ranges for the coming week are ¥133-135 and DM1.85-1.89.

British inflation continues to be of concern. MO, the monetary aggregate used by the official authorities for monetary targeting, came in at a year on year basis at 7.8 per cent being well above its 5 per cent target. GDP at 4 per cent year on year to second quarter continues to indicate an extremely buoyant economy.

Short-term money market rates touched higher on the numbers which helped to underpin sterling for the week and remained broadly unchanged at DM 3.13 and slightly lower against the dollar at \$1.66.

MO rose a seasonally adjusted 1 per cent in August after a 0.9 per cent increase in July to a year on year rate of growth of 7.8 per cent.

M4 rose a seasonally adjusted

1.2 per cent in August lower than the forecast of 2.7 per cent but still rising at an annual rate of 17.3 per cent.

M4 bank and building society lending rose a revised \$9.2 billion in August higher than the \$8.1 billion expected.

Gross domestic product at constant factor costs increased 0.5 per cent in the second quarter to 1988 to give a year on year increase of 4 per cent.

Pressure

Investors and analysts alike are waiting in anticipation of the release next week of the UK trade data and the meeting of G-7 finance ministers. Whilst trade numbers are not expected to be as appalling as the last set, a figure in excess of £1.5 billion is expected and annualised this would exceed a £12 billion deficit for the year.

The trade surplus announced this week of DM11.1 billion in July brings the cumulative surplus for the seven months of this year to DM70.3 billion and compares with DM65.7 billion over the same period a year ago.

Provided by NBK weekly market report.

Key OPEC ministers to review oil market

MADRID, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Key OPEC ministers assembled in Madrid today for new talks on the excess output of oil which has created a glut and threatens a crash in prices.

The five-man OPEC pricing committee is empowered to summon a full emergency conference of the 13-nation organisation to consider members' violations of their assigned output quotas, but few industry analysts think that very likely.

Talks

Such a move might raise market expectations of decisive action, which if dashed, might send prices down even more steeply.

Weak oil prices have lately eased jitters about a return to inflation in the United States and other industrial nations. But bankers say further decline may

do serious damage to debt-laden Third World oil exporters like Nigeria and Venezuela.

The OPEC ministers from Algeria, Indonesia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela were expected to lunch together then start talks on premises belonging in Indonesia's Madrid embassy, industry sources said.

But delegates declined to discuss any aspect of the two-day talks or confirm the time or venue.

Sources close to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries said the five wanted to meet quietly away from the press, anxious not to do anything that might raise false hopes in the market of major decisions.

Just how sensitive the market is was demonstrated on Friday. New York prices plunged almost 50 cents a barrel on

rumours that the Saudi minister, Hisham Nazer, would not attend the Madrid talks and might send a junior envoy.

Eyewitnesses say Nazer has arrived in Madrid.

Committed

Saudi Arabia is the biggest exporter and a key player in OPEC, which is officially committed to sell oil at prices based around an \$18 per-barrel reference level.

The New York market closed on Friday with Dubai, the most widely-traded OPEC crude, quoted at \$11.45/60 a barrel for November loading compared with its official OPEC selling price of \$17.42.

If OPEC members were sticking to quotas, the organisation should be producing around 17.75 million barrels daily of

crude oil. A Reuters survey of industry sources recently estimated actual August output around 20 million, although this may be diminishing slightly this month.

OPEC's president, Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman, said recently he thought OPEC output was 19.5 million barrels daily in August.

Output

He, Nazer and the other three ministers on the pricing committee last met in Switzerland on August 3 when they issued a statement warning sellers against the danger of excess output.

One reason analysts doubt if the committee will call a full emergency session of OPEC is that its next scheduled conference is due within two months, on November 21.

New oil discovery

LIBREVILLE, Sept. 25. (OPECNA): Gabon's Ministry of Hydrocarbons has announced the discovery of a new offshore well situated 40 km south of the Barbier marine field.

The drilling, carried out on the Nkomi block by Elf-Gabon, encountered hydrocarbon reservoirs from an average depth of 1,970 metres.

In initial tests, 120 cu. metres of anhydrous oil of 38 degrees API was discovered. The company said that further studies would now be conducted to determine the commercial potential of the find.

The company holds 39.18 per cent of the concession, Odeco Drilling (Africa) 32.06 per cent, Sun Gabon 23.75 per cent and the Gabonese government five per cent.

World Business Summary

Mexico, Norway call for higher world oil prices

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Leaders of the oil producing countries of Mexico and Norway yesterday called for higher world oil prices as part of efforts to bring sustained growth to developing countries. Speaking at a two-day conference on environment and development, Mexican President Miguel de La Madrid said current low crude prices deter conservation and damage producers' economies. "It's absurd that petroleum is permitted to have the low prices it is now suffering," he said. Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said higher oil prices would lead to development of alternative sources of energy. "There is a strong need to stabilise oil prices at a reasonable and higher level," she said. The two leaders spoke at the opening of a meeting at which Brundtland will present the Spanish version of a world commission on environment and development report entitled "Our common future." Brundtland, who heads the commission established by the United Nations in 1983, said current economic conditions have forced poor countries to strain their environments, which could bring disastrous consequences for the world. "Developing countries have had little alternative but to tax their natural resources, often beyond the limits of recovery," she said. She called for action to alleviate developing countries' foreign debt burdens and increased development aid and leading to ensure stable growth among poor countries.

Nigerian country fund would help attract new investors

LAGOS, Sept. 25. (OPECNA): The successful flotation of a "country fund" by Nigeria would help attract new investors for debt conversion, privatisation or regular direct investment, a spokesman here was told. Victor Bolles, general manager of the capital markets group at the Nigerian International Bank, said that foreign investors in the fund would gain experience in Nigerian markets which could spur them to make further direct investments in the country. He told the symposium organised by the Securities and Exchange Commission that the successful implementation of the proposed fund would mark a new entry by Nigeria into world capital markets. "This would not just be important for the prestige and image of Nigeria before the world community, but would reintegrate it into the world financial markets and establish the country as a place worthy of investment consideration," he stressed. However, Bolles called on the government to modify certain economic policies such as debt conversion, privatisation and commercialisation programmes as well as the Nigerian enterprises promotion decree to ensure the fund's success. For example, he said, government restrictions on dividends and capital remittance "are uncompetitive to the programmes of other countries," stressing that it must not be forgotten that the fund would be competing for investors with other country funds in the same world markets. In another paper, Dr Lawrence Clarke, a senior investment officer with the Washington-based International Finance Corporation, made a strong case for a debt-conversion country fund under which investors would hold non-voting preference shares in the country. The symposium, entitled "Stimulating foreign investment inflow to Nigeria's country fund approach," also heard of the legal implications involved in establishing such a fund.

Cocoa talks collapse

THE two weeks of talks on the future of the International Cocoa Agreement ended in London over the weekend in failure. Faced with a four-year glut which has pushed prices down to levels last seen 12 years ago, delegates from 17 producer and 20 consumer nations could not reach agreement on a price range. Attempts to salvage the pact will be made at a meeting of the International Cocoa Organisation in London next January, but there will be little optimism at the weekend that the agreement, which expires in two years' time, would be saved. The December contract on the futures market closed on Friday at £764 a tonne, a drop of about £400 since the beginning of the year. The producer struggle against an over-supplied market entered crisis in March when the organisation's buffer stock filled to capacity at 250,000 tonnes. A second line of defence — a scheme to take a further 120,000 tonnes off the market by agreed withholding of supplies — is blocked in the absence of a deal on what price to defend. The price dispute has been aggravated by the huge arrears in producers' levy payments of \$30 a tonne to the buffer stock fund. These will amount to almost \$70m by the end of this month. The organisation's secretariat proposed to suspend levy payments and sell beans to meet the cost of the pact until it expires in Sept 1990, if arrears were not paid. Consumer spokesman Peter Baron of West Germany said the meeting could not agree to the proposal but existing cash reserves should be sufficient to cover costs until January's meeting. As the cocoa delegates left London, delegates to the International Coffee Organisation were flying in to open their talks today.

UN calls for African debt relief

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 25. (Reuters): The United Nations members agreed without dissent yesterday on a recommendation that Africa's crushing debt burden be relieved through write-offs, rescheduling and grants. A section on the continent's external debts was among proposals adopted without dissent at the end of a two-week UN review of the results to date of a sweeping African economic recovery programme approved here in 1986.

"Dealing with the African crisis is a priority concern for the international community and the United Nations," the review committee comprising all active UN members declared. "It is therefore a matter of urgency that the promising actions that have been taken by all parties concerned to implement the programme of action should be strengthened and accelerated. Sustained and unfettered efforts made by African countries must be matched by substantial and urgent efforts by the international community to provide support to them at the required levels and to create an international environment favourable to the process of reform and restructuring." In a bleak progress report that was considered by the committee, Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuellar said Africa was worse off now than in 1985. Its debt last year totalled \$218.1 billion, or 70 per cent of gross domestic product, and debt servicing cost \$29 billion, he reported. Amid fears that the committee might fail to agree on a set of proposals, delegates worked behind closed doors throughout the night to complete recommendations that were adopted at a final open meeting.

IDB loan for Dhodhak project

KARACHI, Sept. 25. The Islamic Development Bank has approved a \$17.7 million loan for the Oil and Gas Development Corporation to help implement the second phase of the Dhodhak condensate gas project. According to informed sources, the OGD has drawn up a programme for acquisition of drilling equipment and other machines against the loan amount. The OGD has been asked by the IDB to maintain separate accounts of the project, being financed by its loan, which is to be repaid in ten years' period at a mark-up rate of 9 per cent. If the repayment of loan is prompt and according to the schedule, the agreement has a built-in concessionary provision of lowering the mark-up rate to 7.65 per cent. Sources said that IDB had given a loan of \$7.7 million to the OGD for acquiring two oil drilling rigs a few years ago. Of this loan, the OGD has already acquired two rigs at a cost of over \$7 million having an amount of about \$10 million in balance. The OGD is seeking permission to utilise the balance amount for acquiring another rig and some other equipment. Sources said the OGD had drawn up an ambitious programme for the current fiscal year and is expected to get assistance from other international agencies, including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, the USAID and CIDA.

New conditions affect OPEC quota demand: Chalabi

IRAQI Oil Minister Issam Abdul-Rahim Al Chalabi said today his country's demand for an OPEC oil output quota equal to that of its war foe Iran could be revised.

Chalabi, on a tour of Gulf states intended to help stabilise oil prices, declined to elaborate or say if Iraq was willing to cut its output of around 2.7 million barrels per day (BPD).

Upon his arrival in Kuwait yesterday Chalabi said "we are waiting for... the positions of other countries on this subject and its effect on prices," he told reporters on the first stop of his tour.

Iraq has rejected output curbs from the

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries since December 1986, insisting it be allowed to produce as much as Iran's 2.369 million BPD.

Soaring Iraqi output is widely believed to have helped flood the market with more crude than it needs, pushing down world prices to nearly \$6 below OPEC's official benchmark of \$18 a barrel.

Meetings

A five-nation OPEC price committee began meetings yesterday in Madrid to discuss what steps to take.

Asked if Iraq still insisted on quota parity with Iran now that the two countries

are engaged in talks to end their eight-year-old conflict, Chalabi said:

Demand

"At the time when there was a demand for quota parity there were certain conditions. New conditions have arisen that must be taken into consideration in deciding the output level for each country."

Prices

Chalabi was recently quoted as saying Iraq had sacrificed enough and would not cut production until a new pipeline through Saudi Arabia raised its export capacity to 3.5 million BPD.

He denied yesterday that Iraq was res-

possible for the decline in world prices.

"Iraq's quota is not the crux of the matter but one of the subjects. The proof of this is that prices have fallen to a great extent since the beginning of this year at a time when Iraqi production stayed the same," he said.

Chalabi is due to hold talks with Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa today.

In Baghdad, the official Iraqi News Agency INA quoted Chalabi as saying his tour was part of contacts on "means of achieving stability in the international oil market and stopping the deterioration of oil prices."

Agreement will support external financing programme

Brazil, banks sign \$82b financial package

NEW YORK, Sept. 25, (UPI)—Brazil, the biggest developing world debtor, and a group of commercial bank creditors on Thursday signed a \$82 billion financial package as the Latin American country ended its moratorium on interest payments.

Under the new agreements, a spokesman for the banks estimated, Brazil could reduce its total debt by more than \$18 billion in five years and save another \$3 billion under reduced interest for the new package.

Significant

The package, the outlines of which were first announced on June 22, will support the external financing programme of Brazil and normalise its relations with the international financial community, William R. Rhodes, chairman of the 16-member commercial bank consortium that loaned money to Brazil said at the signing ceremonies.

"The agreements that we are signing today are unique and significant in several respects," Rhodes said. "One is their sheer size. At approximately \$82 billion, this is a landmark package, the largest ever syndicated on the international credit markets."

"Another is the speed of the syndication," Rhodes said. "From the date we reached preliminary agreement to today's signing, three months elapsed—the shortest time span of the debt crisis," which began in 1982.

"Perhaps most significantly, this package for Brazil stands out the first to combine new money with significant debt-reduction provisions," Rhodes said.

He said that he and his colleagues on the bank advisory committee for Brazil, as the consortium calls itself, estimate that "Brazil potentially can reduce its external debt to commercial

banks by more than \$18 billion from 1988 through 1993."

In addition, Rhodes said, Brazil will save approximately \$3 billion under reduced interest margins in the new package.

Brazilian Finance Minister Malloin Da Onega, who signed the agreement on behalf of his country, said "co-operation is better than confrontation."

The signing of the new money package came one day after President Jose Sarney formally ended the 19-month moratorium on interest payments for Brazil's \$123 billion foreign debt, the largest in the developing world.

But some American financial analysts were sceptical about the new agreement.

"This is more of a political decision than anything else," said Gregory Drahushak, a financial analyst with Butcher and Singer, in Pittsburgh.

Drahushak warned the \$82 billion Brazilian debt agreement

signed on Thursday is "nothing more than shuffling the deck chairs on the proverbial titanic. They can't write the loans off, they can't force Brazil to pay off."

Deal

Among the creditors in the deal is Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, America's 12th largest bank holding company, which at the end of June had \$318 million total exposure in Brazilian loans and investments. This represents 1 per cent of assets, or 36 per cent of common shareholder equity, said Fred Wrightman, an analyst with Duff and Phelps Inc. of Chicago.

Mellon is "not going to make much money on this," Wrightman said.

Mellon spokesman Tom Butch said, "We don't have a comment." The package reschedules some \$62 billion of medium- and long-term commercial credits, adds \$5.6 billion

of new loans in various forms, and guarantees \$15 billion of short-term credits for at least two years.

Under the "exit bonds" provisions of the package, to date more than 80 banks have subscribed over \$1 billion in exit bonds which will be issued in exchange for the same amount of Brazilian public sector bonds. These securities, which will have a fixed 6 per cent interest rate, will mature in 25 years and will have a 10-year grace period. The bonds will be exchangeable at par into a new issue of indexed cruzado-denominated Brazilian Treasury obligations.

Payments

Brazil unilaterally suspended interest payments on medium and long-term loans, which comprise almost \$70 billion of the total debt, in February 1987 because falling exports left it without sufficient foreign currency.

Gold prices continue to tumble

Overheated US economy subsiding

NEW YORK, Sept. 25, (UPI)—Economic indicators released this week offered signs that an overheated US economy is subsiding. The Hunt brothers of Texas filed for bankruptcy protection to avoid paying a \$134 million judgement and Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co. launched a \$4.6 billion bid for Kruger Co.

The Commerce Department reported consumer prices rose a modest 0.2 per cent while housing starts dipped 3.3 per cent in August.

The drought pushed up food costs 0.6 per cent while energy prices — due to gasoline price hikes — rose 0.9 per cent, the Labour Department said.

But excluding food and energy, prices rose only 0.2 per cent in August.

Prices

"That's the most significant number," said David Wyss, an economist with Data Resources Inc. in Lexington, Massachusetts.

The improvement reflects a 1.6 per cent plunge in apparel prices as retailers held larger than usual end-of-season sales of women's clothing, Wyss said.

Apparel prices have declined 2.6 per cent in three months after jumping 3.8 per cent in the first five months of this year.

Housing starts in August sagged because of a deep slump in starts for multi-family units. Starts for the first eight months

of 1988 are 9.9 per cent lower than during the same period of 1987, the Commerce Department said.

All figures were adjusted for seasonal variations.

The statistics are "consistent with the notion the economy has slowed from the breakneck pace of the previous four quarters," said Hugh Johnson, chief of investing at First Albany Corp.

"That's good news," said Johnson, because it indicates more stable economic expansion without rapid growth in inflation.

In other economic developments, the Commerce Department also reported that personal income rose 0.2 per cent and personal spending increased 0.5 per cent in August.

Personal savings totalled \$135.7 billion in August, down from \$145.1 billion in July.

Personal income before taxes rose to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$4.08 trillion last month, up \$7.2 billion from July.

Personal outlays increased \$15.1 billion to \$33.6 trillion, according to the department's Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Creditors

In international financial news, Brazil, the biggest developing world debtor, and a group of commercial bank creditors signed a \$82 billion new-money and debt-restructuring package as the Latin American country ended its moratorium on interest payments.

Under the new agreements, a spokesman for the banks estimated, Brazil could reduce its total debt by more than \$18 billion in five years and save another \$3 billion under reduced interest for the new package.

Gold continued to tumble to New York and European bullion markets reaching an 18-month low. As the week drew to a close, the spot gold contract closed at \$339.30 on New York's COMEX, \$398.50 in Zurich and \$397.25 in London.

Oversupply

Bullion traders blamed an international oversupply and a lack of investor interest for the declining prices.

The personal bankruptcy filing by Nelson Bunker Hunt and William Herbert Hunt cannot free the two sons of the late, billionaire H.L. Hunt from paying the \$134 million judgement that Minpeco S.A. won against them, an attorney for the Peruvian mineral concern said.

"We have a very secure position in the bankruptcy court because prior court claims cannot be discharged by the bankruptcy judge. In other words, the bankruptcy court cannot relieve the Hunts from paying the judgement," said Mark Cymrot of the law firm of Cole Corbett and Abrutyn in Washington, D.C.

Cymrot was the lead counsel for Minpeco S.A., the Peruvian state-owned Mineral Corpora-

tion in the New York court case in which the Hunt brothers were found guilty last month of conspiring to corner world silver markets.

Later a jury awarded Minpeco \$134.6 million to be paid by Nelson Bunker and William Herbert, along with their brother Lamar Hunt and three other defendants.

Move

In a surprise move on Wednesday, Bunker and Herbert filed for protection under chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy code in a Dallas court, saying Minpeco had required them to post a \$225 million bond to cover the claim, interest and other costs pending an appeal of the verdict.

Lamar Hunt, owner of the Kansas City Chiefs football team, has not filed any such petition. Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co.'s \$4.6 billion buyout bid for Kruger Co., the Cincinnati grocery chain, may signal the start of a bidding war with the Haft family of Landover, Maryland, which launched a \$4.3 billion offer last week.

Kroger executives, trying to keep the chain independent, say they are pursuing their own restructuring plan.

Three times in the past three years, Kohlberg has acquired a food company initially sought by the Haft's, including Safeway Stores Inc. which was broken up after the sale.

Kuwait supports Egypt's talks with IMF

CAIRO, Sept. 25, (KUNA): A senior Kuwaiti official said today his country is ready to lend support to Egypt in its ongoing negotiations with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for rescheduling of its debts.

The deputy director of the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development, Abdul Wahab Al Badr, added in a statement carried by the Egyptian Middle East News Agency that Kuwait also supports Cairo's demands for additional loans from the two monetary agencies.

"My country is ready to offer any help Egypt might need in its negotiations with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank," Al Badr was quoted by the agency as saying.

Debts

Kuwait is a member of the 18-nation Paris Club which in May last year agreed to reschedule about \$6 billion of Egypt's debts due up to the end of last June.

In its negotiations with the IMF and the World Bank, Cairo is now seeking the rescheduling of another \$5 billion. Egyptian foreign debts are estimated at \$43 billion.

The Kuwaiti official said Arab monetary agencies can together finance several development projects in Egypt to help re-energise the Egyptian economy.

He said the Kuwaiti fund has already asked Egypt to present project proposals so that the fund could help finance them.

Al Badr noted that the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development granted Egypt \$37 million since last year in two loans to finance such projects.

Technological advances predicted to revitalise leather sales

PARIS, Sept. 25, (Reuters)—Ultra-violet curing and an injection technique that cuts tanning time from hours to minutes are the latest innovations in the leather industry.

Experts at the recent 46th international leather week in Paris, covering the entire trade from hides to Hermes handbags, predict that technological advances such as these can revitalise markets, particularly for manufacturers in developed countries.

Shoe manufacturers in the Western world had taken a beating in recent years with a flood of imports from Asian producers and a fashion fad for sporty sneakers.

"It lasted 10 years, but now the vogue for tennis shoes is stagnating," said Sylvie Lefranc, who heads the Style Bureau for French Leather Goods Manufacturers.

Styles

"Men's shoes still have the traditional styles, but the casual and sports domain has been integrated. For women the trend is toward more colours and a return to higher heels."

Shoes are the backbone of the leather industry, with well over half of leather production worldwide used in footwear, said industry sources.

French and Belgian co-operation in leather research has developed a machine that treats and cures leather shoe pieces with ultra-violet rays in only 10

seconds.

"Traditional leather finishes are based on solvents or water, but the shoe industry had to develop a new technology," said Danielle Motin of the French Technical Centre for Leather.

Response

"The tendency is to reduce the manufacturing time in order to have a quick response to the market," she added.

Still under development, and shown by the West German firm Krause in a prototype version, is a new system that cuts tanning time for most leathers from six or 12 hours to a single minute per skin.

Instead of placing skins in a huge drum for soaking with a chemical and chrome-salts solution, the "continuous tanning machine" puts single skins on a conveyor belt and pressure-injects them with tanning solution.

Tanning cures skins so they cannot be destroyed by bacteria.

Processes

France is a major producer of calfskins. The United States produces more of coarser cowhide, Australia and New Zealand much of the world's sheepskin and China provides good-quality pigskin.

The exotic leathers — crocodile, snakeskin and ostrich — come mainly from African countries.

Michel Alloy, a specialist from the French Technical Centre, said the tanning machine could

also be adapted for other processes, such as dyeing or oiling, when leathers are re-oiled to make them supple.

A computer-controlled robot with 500 adjustable sucker-pads to form its "hands" — designed to sort and stack shoe pieces after they are cut by machine, water-jet or laser — will further rationalise the shoe industry, said Motin.

"Traditionally, shoe pieces are cut by a press, and the operator spends a third of his time sorting and counting the pieces. This robot recognises the pieces with a camera-eye and picks them up and piles them according to size."

With this sort of technology the industry in developed countries could be competitive with Asia, she said.

Manpower costs now amount to nearly a third of the finished product price for Western producers, she said. To be competitive with the Asians, they have to be reduced to 20 per cent or below, she said.

But some prominent French shoe designers, such as Robert Clergerie, say they will have no part of the new technology.

"We're still artisans of shoes, not industrialists," said Clergerie, who was named "Designer of the Year" in 1987 by the US fashion trade journal, Woman's Wear Daily. "We use leather in traditional fashion. It's a manual production and therefore expensive."

Kuwait dinar deposit rates firm and then ease

KUWAITI dinar deposit rates firmed and then eased yesterday as players talked down the high levels prevailing since Thursday after a rush on dollars.

There was no significant new liquidity. But dealers said the market saw the sharp jump in interest rates on Thursday and Saturday as exaggerated.

Liquidity has been tightened by the fall of the dinar against the dollar, prompting banks to move into the US currency.

Overnight dealt early in the day at Saturday's 10 per cent but later slipped to eight per cent. Tomorrow and spot-next funds opened at 120, 10 per cent but later eased.

One-month started at 7-3/8, 1/8 per cent, around Saturday levels, but later fell along with other 3/8 periods to a uniform 6-5/8, 3/8 per cent.

Meanwhile, Saudi rival inter-bank deposits were steady yesterday in a virtually dead market which saw little demand due to the European weekend, when major offshore players are absent.

Saudi dealers reported some activity in the spot rial, which eased to 3.7506/10 to the dollar from 3.7503/08 as traders continued to sell the rial in favour of the US currency.

Price reforms send inflation soaring

BEIJING, Sept. 25, (Reuters)—China's communist leaders meet to endorse a slowdown of controversial price reforms that have sent inflation soaring to record levels, Western diplomats said today.

The annual plenary meeting of the party's Central Committee, coming shortly after some bank runs and panic buying, will try to slow the overheating economy — but how is not yet known.

"Price reforms are definitely on the back burner," said a diplomat.

"The leadership will focus on keeping inflation under control but there is confusion about how to do it."

Inflation surged to a year-on-year rate of 19 per cent in June, the worst since the communists seized power in 1949.

Increase

Retail spending has soared, reaching an annual rate of increase of 35 per cent in September, as anxious consumers fearing more price rises pulled money out of banks to buy everything from gold jewelry to salt.

Industrial production jumped by 17 per cent in the first nine months of the year.

Price reforms, the key to China's broad programme of

KUWAIT

| BANK SECTOR | P.CLS | LT | HIGH | LOW | VOL | TRADE |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| NATIONAL BANK | 1.060 | 1.060 | 1.060 | 1.060 | 395000 | 20 |
| GULF BANK | 0.430 | 0.430 | 0.430 | 0.430 | 350000 | 19 |
| COMMERCIAL BK | 0.320 | 0.320 | 0.320 | 0.320 | 760000 | 17 |
| AMIL BANK | 0.385 | 0.385 | 0.385 | 0.385 | 190000 | 8 |
| B.K.M.E | 0.390 | 0.395 | 0.395 | 0.395 | 180000 | 7 |
| K.R.E.A. | 0.410 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| BURGAN BANK | 0.320 | 0.320 | 0.320 | 0.320 | 150000 | 3 |
| K.F.HOUSE | 0.540 | 0.530 | 0.530 | 0.530 | 120000 | 2 |
| INVESTMENT SECTOR | | | | | | |
| KUT INV. CO. | 0.154 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| K.F.T.C.I.C. | 0.210 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| K.I.T.C. | 0.152 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| COM.FACILITIES | 0.495 | 0.480 | 0.480 | 0.480 | 10000 | 1 |
| AMTAM INV. | 0.000 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| T.F.A. | 0.100 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| INV. PEARL KUT | 0.104 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| INSURANCE SECTOR | | | | | | |
| KUT INSURANCE | 0.730 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| GULF INSURANCE | 0.370 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AMTAM INS. CO. | 0.580 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| WARDA INS. CO. | 0.460 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| REAL ESTATE SECTOR | | | | | | |
| KUT R.E. CO. | 0.236 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AMTAM R.E. CO. | 0.106 | 0.104 | 0.104 | 0.104 | 100000 | 2 |
| NAT R.E. CO. | 0.214 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SALAMAT R.E. | 0.080 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| KUT PRODUCTS | 0.090 | 0.090 | 0.090 | 0.090 | 160000 | 3 |
| KUT R.E.I. CO. | 0.000 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| INDUSTRY SECTOR | | | | | | |
| KUT IND. CO. | 0.530 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| KUT P.P. IND. | 0.300 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| KUT CEMENT CO. | 0.255 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| REF. IND. CO. | 0.420 | 0.415 | 0.415 | 0.415 | 160000 | 3 |
| N.A.M.T.L. CO. | 0.000 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| GULF CABLE | 1.090 | 1.090 | 1.090 | 1.090 | 200000 | 3 |
| K.P.H. IND. CO. | 0.204 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| COM.MARINE | 0.350 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| K.S.N. REP. CO. | 0.045 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SERVICES SECTOR | | | | | | |
| OVERLAND TRANS | 0.082 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| K.N.C. CO. | 0.190 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| KUT HOTELS CO. | 0.170 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| P.WAREHOUSING | 0.164 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| COM.WKT.CHXP. | 0.018 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MOBILE TELE. | 0.380 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| KUT COMPUTER | 0.178 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| FOOD SECTOR | | | | | | |
| LIVESTOCK T.T. | 0.230 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| UNITED FISHERIES | 0.154 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| UNITED POULTRY | 0.230 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| KUT FOODS | 0.380 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AGRI. FOOD PROD. | 0.150 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NON-KUT SECTOR | | | | | | |
| B.H.N. INTER. BK | 0.068 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| B.H.N. EAST. BK | 0.046 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| UNITED GULF BK | 0.000 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| COAST INVEST. | 0.104 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A.G. INV. CORP. | 0.035 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| FIRST GULF BK | 0.620 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| B.K.I.G. | 0.080 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

Wanted

SRI LANKAN engineer requires accommodation to share with bachelors or a family in Fahsheel. Tel. 4835324, 7 am - 2 pm. (AT3-44119-3)

Available

KUWAIT City behind Sharq fire station. Single room for one or two Indian bachelors. Tel. Mr. John. 2419327, after 6 pm. (AT2-44077-3)

KUWAIT City, Fahd Al Salem Street, near GPO. Accommodation with kitchen facilities for a couple or bachelors to share with an Indian family. Tel. 3720324. (AT2-KPC-TM-2)

FARWANIYA, behind the Holiday Inn, sharing accommodation in an apartment preferably for a small Mangalorean family, (husband and wife). All facilities available. Tel. 2449400 ext. 355, 7 am - 3 pm. (AT2-44062-2)

KUWAIT City, Fahd Al Salem Street, near the Continental Hotel. Accommodation for bachelors. Tel. Mr. Abdul Hamid or Mr. Naem, 2540213. (AT3-44109-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, Istiqlal Street, near the Continental Hotel. Accommodation for bachelors. Tel. Mr. Abdul Hamid or Mr. Naem, 2540213. (AT3-44109-3)

BOODAI AVIATION CARGO MABUHAY Philippines Door-to-Door Service Contact Baby Tel. 4847937, 4817708, 4837850

NUGRA, Khaldoun Street. One independent room furnished with water and electricity and tele. facilities for 1 or two bachelors from 1st October. Rent KD80. Tel. Mr. Oberoi, 4740801, off. 2544645, res. (AT2-44055-3)

KUWAIT City, near the Sheraton Hotel. Western oriented person wanted for independent furnished accommodation with sea view in traditional villa. All facilities available. Rent KD120 all inclusive. Tel. 2418017, 1 - 3 pm or after 8 pm. (AT2-44070-3)

HASSAWI, near the petrol station. One room for a family. Bus route 21, 22, 23. Rent KD35. Tel. Mr. Elias, 4344285 or contact "Golden Store" Abbasiya. (AT2-44086-2)

KUWAIT City, near GPO, Anwar Al Sabah building, Flat No. 144 Block 13. One room for 2 Indian Christian bachelors or working ladies to share with a family. Rent KD90. Tel. 2413694, 6 - 9 pm. (AT2-44087-3)

SALMIYA, Amman Street, Lane 138, House 21. Independent big room with water and electricity. Kitchen and bathroom facilities for 1 or 2 bachelors or a small family. Rent KD50. Tel. Mr. Qureshi, 2408937, 9 am - 1 pm, 4 - 7 pm. (AT3-44113-2)

For Rent

ABU HALIFA, one bedroom apartment with saloon. Rent KD 85. Tel. 4815105, 4816107, 7.30 am - 12.30 pm, 4 - 7 pm. (AT3-44104-3)

SALWA, new building, ground floor, 3 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large kitchen, large lounge, private garage, CAC and heating, including water and electricity. Tel. 5644575 after 1.30 pm. (AT2-KR-TM-3)

BAYAN, deluxe half villa, CAC, consisting of 2 bedrooms, living and dining area, 2 bathrooms, and kitchen, fully carpeted with curtain and private entrance. Rent KD 250. Tel. 5380004. (AT2-44098-3)

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AMERICAN Ankor Craft boat, 17 foot, Johnson outboard engine 115HP, 6 seats and front seats, as new. KD1,750. Tel. 3710214/15 ext. 5202. (AT2-44072-3)

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IBM PC-XT (Compatible) 256KB, 2 floppy disk drive, enhance colour monitor (16 colours), EGA display. Also for sale a monochrome (green display), in good condition. Tel. Mr. Isma 2546155. (AT2-44074-3)

Miscellaneous

MAIDAN Hawalli, near "Al Jarier" School. Living room furniture German made, wall to wall unit, velvet sofa set, Philips dryer, kitchen cabinet, TV and VCR, table curtains and carpets. Tel. Mr. Latif 2667291, 3 - 9.30 pm. (AT2-44084-3)

TECHNICS piano/organ, four octave model with stand, two office chairs and five curtains. All are in excellent condition. Tel. 2410404. (AT2-44076-2)

QUALITY melamine dinner, tea, coffee sets and odd pieces at very low prices. Brazilian made. Tel. Mr. Mathai, 4736657/58. (AT3-44101-3)

GARDEN furniture, tools and equipment, bicycles, bar-b-ques, household items and lots more. We are moving, if you want to buy at bargain prices please call 5619891. (AT3-44110-3)

LADIES' tailored dress, evening dress coat, rain coat, mink jacket all are made in France. Tel. 3710214/15 ext. 5202. (AT2-44072-3)

Cars

NISSAN Stanza '84, automatic, AC, silver colour. In very good condition. KD1000 or KD35 monthly instalment. Tel. Mr. Qureshi, 2408936, 2408938, 9 am - 1 pm, 4 - 7 pm. (AT3-44113-2)

MITSUBISHI Lancer 1981, manual with AC, FM/AM radio, cassette player. Lady-driven, in excellent condition. Tel. 5320284, 3 - 6 pm. (AT3-44102-2)

MAZDA 929, Sep. '85 model, white, automatic, 82,000 kms, electric sunroof in excellent condition. KD100 plus KD69x23 instalments. Tel. Jenny 2555934, 2511451, 7 am - 2.30 pm, 5.55x368, pm and evenings. (AT1-44059-3)

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WILL, Peter Coleman urgently ring 2463324 ext. 126, 7.30 am - 1.30 pm. (AT2-44096-2)

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Villa in Messiloh area 3000 sq. mtr with swimming pool for club or family. Also available villas, 1/2 villas, stores in all areas
Messiloh Beach Real Estate
Tel: 2401858-2408510

REQUIRED a laundry labourer
with previous experience and transferable residence.
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FORM ARABIA NOW IN STOCK
Brand new orthopaedic beds, king size and queen size.
HALF PRICE
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Showroom 8 am - 12 noon and 5-8 pm Sat-Thurs.
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REQUIRED
The following personnel for an established trading co., dealing in importing/exporting foodstuffs/construction mat./electric/electronic equip./promotional items.
Outdoor sales staff (male/female)
Executive secretary (Arabic/female)
Only experienced candidates may apply.
Contact — Tel: 2407412/3 — betw. 9 am and 5 pm

URGENTLY REQUIRED
For an import and export commission agent est. the following persons:-
1. Manager/partner with 7 years experience in import and export business in Kuwait.
2. Sales representative (part-time) with 5 years experience in import and export business in Kuwait market. Candidates must have Kuwaiti driving licence and transferable residence.
Write to P.O. Box 38145, 72252, Darya, Kuwait.

WANTED SALES REPRESENTATIVES
to work for an advertising agency. Applicants must possess the following requirements:
1. Previous experience in printing & advertising.
2. Must have a Kuwaiti driving licence & car
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4. Able to speak English & Arabic.
Only applicants who fulfil the above requirements may call us on telephone 2418730/8 between 2.00 and 5.00 pm.

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Apartments at Salmiya Blajat Area
Consists of 2 bedrooms, saloon and a hall, 2 bathrooms and a maid's room, central A/C. Excellent location, overlooking the sea. A view of the Arabian Gulf Street from one side and Salem Al Mubarak Street from the other.
Rent between KD320 and 390 per month.
Call tel. 5747912 Saleh.

AMIRY TRADING AND CONTRACTING CO. REQUIRES
★ 2 electronics & electrical engineers
★ 3 electronic & electrical technicians — experience min. 5 years
★ 1 telephone technician
★ 1 mechanical technician supervisor (diesel & gasoline technician)
Applicants must fulfil the following requirements:
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Address: Bank Street — Opp. KTC — Shuwaikh.
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• JAZZERCISE with Connie SAT-WED 6.30 PM
• YOGA with Annie SUN. 5 pm. MON. 9 am.
• BALLET with Diana Primary — Grade II
For Details Contact: 5624111 Ext. 751/739 THE CLUB

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AGE CATCHES UP WITH MOSES

'Flojo' clinches 100 metres gold

SEOUL, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Florence Griffith Joyner flew to Olympic victory in the 100 metres but age beat Ed Moses today.

But a widening doping scandal marred the Games and two Israeli yachtsmen were sent home for breaking a Jewish fast.

Griffith Joyner, her arms raised in triumph, beamed as she crossed the home three strides ahead of her teammate Evelyn Ashford and East German Heike Drechsler. She then ran a happy lap of honour clutching a huge Stars and Stripes.

"I looked forward to being ranked number one in the 100," said 'Flojo', the glamour queen of the Games. "Now I look forward to being ranked number one in the 200."

Bouncy
But as 'Flojo' rejoiced, Moses smiled sadly. The old man of the track lost his 12-year stranglehold on the 400 metres hurdles to his bouncy US teammate Andrew Phillips.

Moses, 33, shadowed the leaders for the first 100 metres until Phillips blasted away for gold, leaving Senegal's Dia Ba with the silver and Moses with the bronze.

Phillips choked back tears on the medal podium and later paid tribute to Moses, saying "He's been my inspiration, my motivation and idol."

Two more weightlifters — Hungarian Kalman Szecseri and Fernando Mariaca of Spain — were disqualified for doping today. The ban brought to six the number of athletes sent home for failing drug tests at the Seoul Games.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) cautioned the Spanish team's doctors, saying they were partly to blame for Mariaca's offence.

The Israeli team, racked by controversy over observance of the Yom Kippur fast, today ordered two yachtsmen home for



Phillips (left) crosses the finish line in the 400 metres hurdles. Right: Griffith Joyner raises her arms in victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

sailing on the holiest day in the Jewish calendar.

Israeli Olympic chief Isaac Ofek said brothers Dan-Noam and Ram-Jacob Torton disobeyed orders not to compete during Yom Kippur. They faced disciplinary action in Israel which could lead to suspension from international competition.

Daniela Silivas, a petite pixie with an infectious smile and no joints visibly hampering her gymnastics skills, won three of four golds in the women's apparatus.

The Romanian, darling of the Seoul gymnastics, upstaged her Soviet nemesis Yelena Shushunova, who won the women's individual all-around and led the way to a Soviet team gold.

Ambition beat Shushunova

today, a Soviet coach said. She made untypical mistakes that left her second and third in two events. Her teammate, rising star Svetlana Boginskaya, 15, took the fourth gold, as well as a silver.

Soviet high jumper Gennady Avdeyenko beat American Hollis Conway and Swedish world champion Patrick Sjoeborg with a leap of 2.38 metres. But he failed in his try to improve Cuban Javier Sotomayor's world mark of 2.43.

Sjoeborg shared the bronze with another Soviet, Rudolf Povarnishin.

As sporting legends tumbled like nine pins, Mary Slaney of United States, who fell in the 3,000 metres final in Los Angeles, finished 10th after running a disappointing race.



better the previous mark of 54.61 set by Morocco's Nawal El Moutawakil in 1984.

American defending champion Roger Kingdom was in equally impressive form in the opening round of the men's 110 metres hurdles.

He clocked the fastest qualifying time of 13.40 seconds despite crashing through four hurdles.

World record holder Butch Reynolds, seeking to make amends for his World Championship bronze in Rome last year, cruised through the men's 400 metres quarterfinals, winning his heat in 44.46 seconds.

Thomas Schoenlebe and Innocent Eghunike — gold and silver medalists in Rome — also survived unscathed.

Nigerian Eghunike and East German Schoenlebe finished second and third respectively behind American Danny Everett, heat winner in 44.83.

Jamaica's Bert Cameron, world champion in 1983, qualified in fourth place.

But world junior holder Steve Lewis clocked the fastest qualifying time. The 19-year-old American won his heat in 44.41 seconds.

Addition
Kenyan Paul Ereng and Nixon Kiprotich showed they would be formidable opponents for Moroccan favourite Said Aouita in tomorrow's 800 metres final when they won their semifinals.

Ereng clocked one minute 44.55 seconds in the first semifinal, with defending champion Joaquim Cruz of Brazil second.

Kiprotich was slightly slower, clocking 1:44.71 ahead of Aouita.

Aouita, who wore an adhesive plaster on the front of his right thigh in addition to the one he has been wearing on the back of his left thigh, said the extra dressing "was just a precaution."

China rally to overcome tough Brazil
SEOUL, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Defending champions China staged a comeback to beat Brazil 3-1 today and squeeze into the semifinals of the Olympics women's volleyball competition.

The world champions, humbled by a shock 3-2 loss to Peru on Friday, lost the first set 15-2 after allowing Brazil to surge through gaping holes in their defence.

But veterans Xiang Yan and Jiang Ying brought the Chinese, who beat the United States to take the gold in Los Angeles in 1984, back into the title chase with clever setting and spiking.

The world champions took the match 2-1 15-7 15-12 11-11 after 109 minutes and will meet the Soviet Union in Tuesday's semifinals.

Bundled
The Soviet Union beat South Korea and East Germany 3-0 each but lost to Japan 3-2, will meet Peru in the other semifinal.

The Peruvians huddled the United States out of the competition. They won 3-2 after rallying behind from two sets down.

The Americans held a 2-0 lead after 50 minutes and appeared to be headed for a win when their defence fell apart.

The South Americans equalised through clever tactical play by star player Gabriela Perez who dominated in defence.

With Perez closely marked, it was left to Cecilia Tait to penetrate the American defence which appeared more disorganised as the 107-minute match dragged into the rubber.

Brilliant
Australia will have to play the Dutch while the Koreans will meet Group B runners-up Britain.

The Australia-South Korea match, played before a 20,000 crowd at the Songnam stadium was full of brilliant, attacking

skills and there was never more than a goal difference between the two sides. Seven of the goals came in a pulsating first half.

Argentina, the Pan American Games champions, made a brave attempt to force a draw with the Dutch and earn a place in the last four at the expense of Britain.

They lost 1-0 to an 18th minute penalty corner conversion by Helen van der Ben, but missed a great chance to equalise in the last minute.

The United States, bronze medalists at the 1984 Olympics, failed to reach the semifinals when they were held 2-2 by Britain.

Canada, 1986 World Cup bronze medalists, also missed out. They needed to beat West Germany in their final group game but lost 2-1.



Gao dives to women's springboard gold medal

SEOUL, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Dazzling Gao Min added the Olympic springboard gold medal to her 1986 world title today, underlining China's ever-increasing dominance in the diving pool.

Another Chinese Li Qing emerged with the silver from a battle royal against two Soviet divers and American Kelly McCormick.

McCormick, silver medalist in Los Angeles four years ago, claimed the bronze after finishing just 1.14 points behind Li.

Proceeded
Gao took the lead from Li on the sixth dive. The 18-year-old proceeded to show she was a class apart from the other 11 finalists, and her smile got wider as the applause and points mounted.

Her penultimate effort, an inward 2-1/2 somersaults, earned her 9.5 points from two judges and a total of 72.90 points.

Gao gift-wrapped the gold with the highest score of the day, 77.43 points, with her final dive, a breathtaking reverse 1.5 somersaults with 2-1/2 twists.

Gao finished with 580.23 points. Li amassed 534.33 and McCormick 533.19.

China also won the women's highboard Olympic title with Xu Yanni, and took silver and bronze in the men's platform event.

Chinese coach Xu Yimin said he believed Gao's performance should have earned her 600 points in the final.

To perform so well in an Olympic competition is rare," he said. Gao scored 582.90 points in the 1986 World Championships while the winner of the 1984 Olympic title, Sylvie Bernier of

Lachko splashed badly on her final effort leaving Li to guarantee the silver with 64.80 points on a less difficult dive to that of McCormick whose reverse 1-1/2 somersaults and 2-1/2 twists earned her 66.99.

"I feel real good, it was a tough competition. I've been trying harder dives and I'm really happy with the bronze," McCormick said.

Lachko finished fourth with 526.65 points leaving Bakhova, the surprise success of the final, in fifth with 506.43.

Australians and S. Koreans share 10 goals in thriller
SEOUL, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Jackie Pereira and Lim Kye-Sook scored hat-tricks as Australia and South Korea set a scoring record for Olympic women's hockey by sharing 10 goals today.

By denying the second seeds their expected victory, the Koreans finished top of Group B and avoided a semifinal clash on Tuesday with Group A winners, the Netherlands, defending champions and World Cup holders.

Australia will have to play the Dutch while the Koreans will meet Group B runners-up Britain.

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IOC bans two more weightlifters for doping
SEOUL, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Two more weightlifters were thrown out of the Seoul Olympics today for failing dope tests.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that Hungarian Kalman Szecseri, fourth in the middleweight (75 kg) class, and Spain's Fernando Mariaca, 13th in the lightweight (67.5 kg) category, had been disqualified.

Tests showed Szecseri used stanozolol, a muscle-building anabolic steroid. The Spaniard had taken penicillin, a banned amphetamine stimulant, the IOC said.

The disqualifications widened the doping scandal at the 1988 Games with six athletes now banned since the Olympics began on Sept. 17.

At the Los Angeles Games four years ago, 11 athletes were caught for doping.

Two Bulgarian weightlifting gold medalists, hantamweight (56 kg) Mitko Grahlev and lightweight Angel Guenchev, were stripped of their titles after failing dope tests.

Geovani takes Brazil into semifinals

SEOUL, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Brazil won the battle of the South American soccer giants today, beating Argentina 1-0 with a goal from midfielder Geovani to earn a place in the Olympic semifinals.

Beaten Olympic finalists four years ago, Brazil are almost invincible in the last four which features three countries who reached the European Championship semifinals in June.

West Germany, hosts of that competition, and the Soviet Union crushed outsiders Zambia and Australia respectively while Italy won a tense extra-time duel against Sweden.

Brazil, with the young side they are building for the World Cup in Italy in two years' time, put on an impressive performance but Luis Islas in the

Argentine goal kept them out until 14 minutes from time when Geovani gave the Brazilians their deserved win with a speculative 30-metre effort.

Notched
West Germany's hero was Jurgen Klinsmann, one of the stars of the European Championship, who notched a hat-trick in the 4-0 win over Zambia.

Zambia, shock 4-0 winners over Italy in a group game, were sunk by halftime when they trailed 3-0. Wolfgang Funkel gave the West Germans the lead with a 19th minute penalty and Klinsmann seized on two defensive errors to score in the 35th and 44th minutes.

He completed his hat-trick, thanks to another defensive

lapse, on the stroke of full-time.

Australia, who lost 3-0, were gunned down almost single-handedly by tall Soviet midfielder Alexei Mikhailichenko, like Klinsmann a top talent to emerge in June in West Germany.

The midfielder was behind all three goals in the space of 12 minutes in the second half. Igor Dobrovolski converted penalties in the 50th and 54th minutes after Mikhailichenko was twice brought down in the box.

Mikhailichenko wrapped things up himself with a strong header in the 62nd minute. Australian striker Dave Mitchell was sent off for a second half foul.

Sweden were left wondering about a missed Michael Andersson penalty in the second period

after losing 2-1 in extra time to Italy.

The Italians went into the lead through veterans striker Antonio Virdis in the 48th minute before Andersson missed the chance to equalise from the spot 20 minutes from time.

Manage
With the Italians on the defensive, Jan Hellstrom did manage to break through to level the score six minutes from full time with a neat volley. But Massimo Crippa put Italy into the last four seven minutes into extra time.

In the semifinals, Brazil meet West Germany in Seoul on Tuesday while in Pusan, Italy play the Soviet Union, a repeat of their European Championship clash at the same stage.

Foster fights twice for win
SEOUL, South Korea, Sept. 25. (AP): Todd Foster had to box twice today night to make the Olympic quarterfinals because the bell tolled for Chun Jin-Chul when it should have been a horn.

Chun dropped his hands and turned toward his corner, thinking the round was over. The bell, however, signalled the end of a round in ring A. A horn was used for hours in ring B.

Foster, knowing this, threw a left hook, as referee Sandor Pajar of Hungary commanded "stop," also thinking the round was over.

Chaos reigned, until Emil Jetchev of Bulgaria, president of the jury, ruled the bout was a no-contest and said it would be fought again. Foster stopped Chun in the 2nd round of the rematch.

They are Yang Young-Ja of South Korea, Valentina Popova of the Soviet Union, Mok Ka-Sha of Hong Kong, Mika Hoshino of Japan, Hyun Jung-Hwa of South Korea, Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia, Bettine Vrieskoop of Holland and Olga Nemes of West Germany.

Japan's Seiji Ono scored a 21-19, 13-21, 21-18, 12-21, 23-20 triumph over Massimo Costantini, Italy's only participant in the table tennis in 68 minutes.

In the women's singles preliminaries, Jiao Zhimin of China, the world's second ranked player, and eight other players shared the lead with a 3-0 record.

They are Yang Young-Ja of South Korea, Valentina Popova of the Soviet Union, Mok Ka-Sha of Hong Kong, Mika Hoshino of Japan, Hyun Jung-Hwa of South Korea, Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia, Bettine Vrieskoop of Holland and Olga Nemes of West Germany.

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Chaos reigned, until Emil Jetchev of Bulgaria, president of the jury, ruled the bout was a no-contest and said it would be fought again. Foster stopped Chun in the 2nd round of the rematch.

They are Yang Young-Ja of South Korea, Valentina Popova of the Soviet Union, Mok Ka-Sha of Hong Kong, Mika Hoshino of Japan, Hyun Jung-Hwa of South Korea, Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia, Bettine Vrieskoop of Holland and Olga Nemes of West Germany.

Jiang extends winning streak

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept. 25. (AP): World champion Jiang Jialiang of China today extended his winning streak to four in the Olympic table tennis preliminaries as the tournament entered its third day.

Jiang beat Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium 21-19, 21-14, 21-18. Saive, ranked 61st in the world, took a 4-0 lead at the start of the third set. Then the two players played a see-saw game before the Chinese won it at the Seoul National University Gymnasium.

Joining Jiang with a 4-0 record are Alan Cooke of Britain, Lo Chuen of Hong Kong, Andzej Grubba of Poland, Jorgen Persson of Sweden, Kim Ki-Taik of South Korea, Desmond Douglas

of Britain and Jindrich Pansky of Czechoslovakia.

The eight top players from each group advance into the final round.

In today's preliminaries, Hungarian Tibor Klampar ousted France's Jean-Philippe Gatien 21-19, 17-21, 21-18, 20-22, 21-13 in 50 minutes.

Shared
Pakistani Farjad Saif's bid to post his third straight triumph failed when he was beaten by Erik Lindh of Sweden, ranked 10th in the world, 21-12, 4-21, 9-21.

Saif, the lone member of his country's table tennis team, took the first set but then his shots became erratic as Lindh fired a

series of powerful smashes.

Japan's Seiji Ono scored a 21-19, 13-21, 21-18, 12-21, 23-20 triumph over Massimo Costantini, Italy's only participant in the table tennis in 68 minutes.

In the women's singles preliminaries, Jiao Zhimin of China, the world's second ranked player, and eight other players shared the lead with a 3-0 record.

They are Yang Young-Ja of South Korea, Valentina Popova of the Soviet Union, Mok Ka-Sha of Hong Kong, Mika Hoshino of Japan, Hyun Jung-Hwa of South Korea, Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia, Bettine Vrieskoop of Holland and Olga Nemes of West Germany.

Sweden were left wondering about a missed Michael Andersson penalty in the second period

after losing 2-1 in extra time to Italy.

The Italians went into the lead through veterans striker Antonio Virdis in the 48th minute before Andersson missed the chance to equalise from the spot 20 minutes from time.

Manage
With the Italians on the defensive, Jan Hellstrom did manage to break through to level the score six minutes from full time with a neat volley. But Massimo Crippa put Italy into the last four seven minutes into extra time.

In the semifinals, Brazil meet West Germany in Seoul on Tuesday while in Pusan, Italy play the Soviet Union, a repeat of their European Championship clash at the same stage.

Foster fights twice for win
SEOUL, South Korea, Sept. 25. (AP): Todd Foster had to box twice today night to make the Olympic quarterfinals because the bell tolled for Chun Jin-Chul when it should have been a horn.

Chun dropped his hands and turned toward his corner, thinking the round was over. The bell, however, signalled the end of a round in ring A. A horn was used for hours in ring B.

Foster, knowing this, threw a left hook, as referee Sandor Pajar of Hungary commanded "stop," also thinking the round was over.

Chaos reigned, until Emil Jetchev of Bulgaria, president of the jury, ruled the bout was a no-contest and said it would be fought again. Foster stopped Chun in the 2nd round of the rematch.

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after losing 2-1 in extra time to Italy.

Reggi ends Evert's Olympic tennis medal hopes

SEOUL, Sept. 25. (Reuters): Chris Evert's only chance of winning an Olympic tennis medal ended in unexpected defeat in the third round of the women's singles today.

A medal would have capped a highly successful 16-year career. But she was beaten 2-6 6-4 6-1 by Raffaella Reggi and the scene is now set for an Olympic final between grand slam champion Steffi Graf and Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini — harring further upsets.

Powered
West German Graf feels she has still not settled into the hard-court tournament here but she powered through to the quarterfinals in her usual efficient manner, beating Catherine Suire of France 6-3 6-0 on a windy day at the Olympic Park.

Sabatini, the woman responsible for Graf's only two defeats this year, was in the same half of the draw as Evert. "Chris going out makes it easier for Sabatini," Graf said.

The Argentine, seeded third, stuttered at the start of her third-

round match against Graf's team-mate Sylvia Hanika but recovered to win 1-6 6-4 6-2.

Evert, 33, the second seed, was gracious in defeat. "Raffi played great tennis so I have to give her a lot of credit," she said. "The way she played today, I don't think there's any disgrace in losing."

The upset happened on the noisy court one where both Helena Sukova, the fifth seed, and men's number four Henri Leconte went out.

Uncharacteristically, Evert, who until 1987 had won at least one Grand Slam singles title a year for 13 years, made 62 unforced errors but she refused to blame the constant distractions from the crowd for her poor performance.

"I have no excuses — I just played badly," she said. "Mentally I was definitely below par. Yesterday, for my first round, I really got psyched up and today I didn't get psyched up at all."

Evert said her future in tennis was uncertain. "It is getting tougher and tougher for me to get motivated," she said.



Reggi clinches her fists to celebrate her win. (Reuters wirephoto)

"Motivation will decide how many tournaments I play next year — if I play at all," said Evert whose last Grand Slam win was the French Open in 1986. "I am playing two or three more tournaments this year and then I will re-evaluate."

Evert said she had no regrets about coming to Seoul. "A medal would have been wonder-

ful but the Olympics came too far into my career. If I had been 18 I am sure I would have won a medal."

Tennis is back in the Olympics this year for the first time since 1924.

In the quarterfinals Reggi will play seventh seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria who needed just 55 minutes to beat Swede

Caterina Lindqvist 6-1 6-0.

Local player Kim Il-Soon, who unexpectedly knocked out fifth seed Helena Sukova on Saturday, put up a brave fight against Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union on centre court before losing her third-round match 6-3 7-6.

"I have no excuses," she said. "I just played badly."

An overjoyed Reggi, who threw her arms around coach Adriano Panatta after the match, had saved four break points to take the first set and sealed the match on Evert's serve when the American hit a forehand into the net.

Sabatini, following Evert on to court one, found the chattering crowd and the disco music from a nearby hall distracting.

"It is a hard court because you have to wait until everybody sits down," said Sabatini, who also admitted that her legs were tired after playing the second-longest women's doubles match in history — 63 games — with team-mate Mercedes Paz yesterday afternoon.

Graf, who now meets Russian Larisa Savchenko on Tuesday, spent half an hour on the practice courts straight after her centre court win.

"It was not my best match today," said Graf who was also unhappy with her second-round performance when she beat Savchenko's compatriot Leila Meskhi 7-5 6-1.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

W. German Cup

BONN, Sept 25, (Reuters): Eintracht Frankfurt, smarting from the embarrassment of being held 1-1 by soccer part-timers Wolfsburg in the West German Cup, slammed six goals in their first round replay yesterday. Frankfurt won 6-1.

Formula 3000

TOKYO, Sept 25, (AP): Japan's top driver, Kazuyoshi Hoshino, won the seventh race of the international Formula 3000 series in a Lola T88-50 Mugen, beating countryman Aguri Suzuki by 18 seconds.

Himalayan climb

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Sept 25, (AP): An international expedition to Mount Annapurna I has set up its camp two, according to a message received here today. The camp was established on Sept 12 at an elevation of 6,350 metres on the 8,091-metre Himalayan peak.

America's Cup

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Sept 25, (Reuters): Lawyers for the San Diego Yacht Club and New Zealand's Mercury Bay Boating Club will consult a New York judge on October 12 at the request of Michael Fay, leader of New Zealand's failed America's Cup bid.

Freelance jockey

NEWBRIDGE, Ireland, Sept 25, (Reuters): Freelance jockey Declan Gillespie enjoyed his second classic triumph of the season on a Vincent O'Brien-trained runner when Dark Lomond won the Irish St Leger by three lengths at the Curragh yesterday.

Clarins tennis

PARIS, Sept 25, (AP): Petra Langrova of Czechoslovakia, ranked 259th in the world, upset 76th-ranked Sandra Wasserman of Belgium today to win the \$50,000 Clarins Open women's tennis tournament.

Bari GP

BARI, Italy, Sept 25, (Reuters): Austria's Thomas Muster won the Bari Grand Prix tennis tournament today beating Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay 2-6 6-1 7-5.

German Masters

STUTTGART, West Germany, Sept 25, (AP): Spain's Jose-Maria Olazabal shot a 68 today to come from behind and win the 900,000 mark (\$486,000) German Masters golf tournament.

Baseball results

NEW YORK, Sept 25, (Reuters): Results of Major League baseball games played yesterday.

| American League | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| New York | 5 Boston 4 |
| Oakland | 5 Milwaukee 2 |
| Toronto | 1 Cleveland 2 |
| Kansas City | 6 Chicago 2 |
| Seattle | 3 Texas 0 |
| Minnesota | 3 California 2 |
| Detroit at Baltimore (postponed-rain) | |
| National League | |
| New York | 14 St Louis 1 |
| Los Angeles | 7 San Francisco 3 |
| Chicago | 2 Pittsburgh 1 |
| Montreal | 2 Philadelphia 0 |
| Cincinnati | 2 Atlanta 1 |
| San Diego | 3 Houston 0 |

RESULTS of the Hubert H. Humphrey Bridge Club games played on Saturday:

1. Santosch Anura & J. Gajjar
2. Sultan Ali & Peter Harris
3. Abedin Amer & Hussam E/W

1. Mrs B. Pereira & D. Pereira
2. Sultan Ali & K.T. Simon
3. G. Rajeev & M. Vaduganathan

RESULTS of the SAS Bridge Club game played yesterday:

1. Irene Shuaib & Sula Fozan
2. Ghofron Mikail & Madge McKenzie
3. Fatima Abduljabbar & Bianca Houssali

AUSTRALIAN SKIPPER WRESTS INITIATIVE FROM PAKISTAN

Border gives Aussies 5-run lead

FAISALABAD, Pakistan, Sept 25, (Reuters): Allan Border played a true captain's innings of 113 not out today to inch Australia into a five-run first innings lead over Pakistan in the second cricket Test.

Border wrestled the initiative from Pakistan, who reduced the touring team to 170 for six, and when he eventually ran out of partners his magnificent century had carried Australia to 321 all out at the close of the third day.

Difficulty
Pakistan, who won the acrimonious first Test in Karachi by an innings and 188 runs, were all out for 316 in their first innings.

Border had still to get off the mark when Australia started the day in some difficulty on 28 for four, but he grafted steadily under a lowering sky with support from Ian Healy (27), Tony Dodemaide (19) and Tim May (14).

The Australian captain's painstaking effort anchored the middle and lower-order batting, and his 23rd Test hundred took him into fifth place behind leading Test century-makers Sunil Gavaskar (34) Don Bradman

(29), Garfield (26) and Greg Chappell (24).

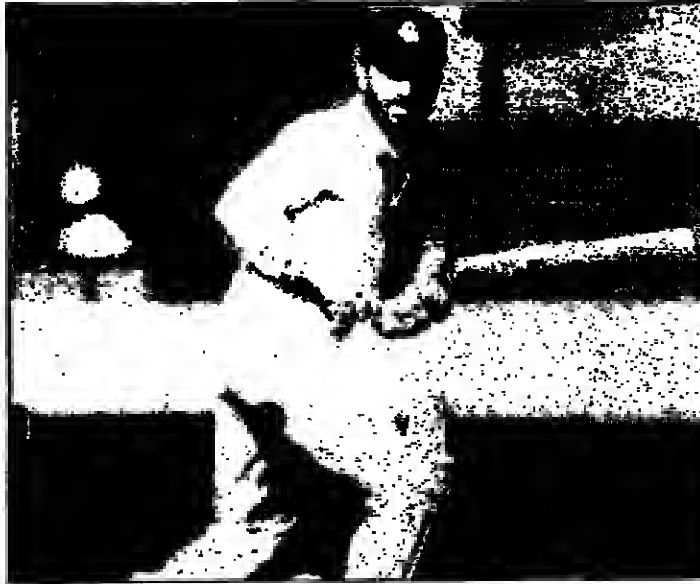
Border's chanceless innings occupied 328 minutes and included 11 fours. He was so relaxed that he refused an offer of bad light in the morning and seemed loth to come off even for a light drizzle in the afternoon.

It was the perfect recovery from the frustrations of Karachi where Australia's heavy defeat came amid their protests over the state of the pitch and Pakistani umpiring decisions.

Despite the achievements of the left-hander from Queensland, a draw seems the likeliest result when play resumes after tomorrow's rest day.

Australia were aided by a lapse from Pakistan wicketkeeper Salim Yousaf. With the score 257 for eight, he put down a fairly easy catch to his right off May, who had yet to score. May's personal total was modest, but his ninth-wicket partnership with Border was worth 62.

Border and nightwatchman Dodemaide kept Pakistan at bay for 90 minutes and 45 runs in the morning before the latter was caught at forward short-leg off medium-pace Mudassar Nazar.



Border: hit an unbeaten 113

Steve Waugh, who made nought and 13 in the first Test, had another bad day, falling three runs later for one. He was well beaten going forward to a ball from off-spinner Tauseef Ahmed and convincingly stumped.

Peter Sleep saw Australia past the lunch break hut was bowled

by Tauseef soon afterwards.

However, Healy proved a stout ally for Border until Javed Miandad took the second new ball at 256. Three deliveries later Iqbal Qasim took a neat catch at slip off left-arm paceman Saleem Jaffer to dismiss Healy.

Border then accelerated and, with May holding the other end,

saw Australia into the lead. May fell at 318 to a bat-pad catch off Abdul Qadir, while Bruce Reid was caught at the wicket three runs later.

Scoreboard

PAKISTAN 1st innings 316 (Ijaz Ahmed 122, Salim Yousaf 62, A. Dodemaide four for 87)

AUSTRALIA 1st innings (over-night 128 for four)

| | |
|---|-----|
| D. Boon b Mudassar Nazar | 13 |
| G. Marsh b Tauseef Ahmed | 51 |
| D. Jones b Abdul Qadir | 16 |
| G. Wood b Saleem Jaffer | 32 |
| A. Dodemaide c Ijaz Ahmed b Mudassar Nazar | 19 |
| A. Border not out | 113 |
| S. Waugh st Salim Yousaf b Tauseef Ahmed | 1 |
| P. Sleep b Tauseef Ahmed | 12 |
| I. Healy c Iqbal Qasim b Salim Jaffer | 27 |
| T. May c sub (Molo-ot-Ang) b Abdul Qadir | 14 |
| B. Reid c Salim Yousaf b Iqbal Qasim | 1 |
| Extras (b-4 lb-15 w-1 sb-2) | 22 |
| Total (all out in 129.5 overs) | 321 |
| Fall of wickets: 1-24 2-65 3-122 4-122 5-167 6-170 7-204 8-256 9-318 | |
| Bowling: Salim Jaffer 29-7-69-2, Mudassar Nazar 17-4-39-2, Abdul Qadir 34-5-84-2, Tauseef Ahmed 35-10-73-3, Iqbal Qasim 14-5-37-1 | |

Ambrosino wins at 20th attempt

ABIDJAN, Sept 25, (Reuters): Frenchman Alain Ambrosino powered his Nissan 200 SX into Abidjan yesterday to win the Ivory Coast Rally at the 20th attempt.

Ambrosino, a long-time resident of the former French colony in West Africa, beat off the challenge of Belgium's Pascal Gaban to clinch victory in the penultimate rally of the 12-event World Championship. France's Patrick Tausiac was third.

Tropical rains and slippery hush tracks took a heavy toll, with only 14 of the 38 cars completing the 3,400-km course.

Capelli finishes second

Prost replaces Senna at top

ESTORIL, Portugal, Sept 25, (Reuters): Frenchman Alain Prost kept the World Drivers' Championship hubbub by winning the Portuguese Grand Prix motor race today to regain the lead from McLaren teammate Ayrton Senna of Brazil.

Prost, starting from pole position, was overtaken by Senna at the first corner of the opening lap but regained his lead at the same point a lap later and was then virtually unchallenged all the way to the chequered flag.

His victory lifted him back into the drivers' lead with 81 points.

Senna, who struggled to keep pace for much of the race, finished a distant sixth and dropped to second in the standings with 76 points.

Italian Ivan Capelli drove his normally-aspirated March superbly to finish second, his best result in Formula One.

Belgian Thierry Boutsen, in a Benetton, was third followed by Briton Derek Warwick in an

Arrows, both drivers having overtaken Italian Michele Alboreto's Ferrari as he ran out of fuel in the closing stages of the final lap. Alboreto finished fifth.

Prost's victory was his third at the Portuguese Grand Prix, his fifth of the season and the 33rd of his career.

Standings

World Drivers' Championship standings after 13 races:
1. Alain Prost (France) 81 points;
2. Ayrton Senna (Brazil) 76; 3.

Gerhard Berger (Austria) 37; 4. Thierry Boutsen (Belgium) 25; 5. Michele Alboreto (Italy) 24; 6. Nelson Piquet (Brazil) 16; 7. Derek Warwick (Britain) 15; 8. Ivan Capelli (Italy) 14; 9. Alessandro Nannini (Italy) 9; 10. Nigel Mansell (Britain) 6; 11. Eddie Cheever (US) 5; Mauricio Gugelmin (Brazil) 5; Jonathan Palmer (Britain) 5; 14. Andrea de Cesaris (Italy) 3; 15. Riccardo Patrese (Italy) 2; 16. Pierluigi Martini (Italy) 1; Satoru Nakajima (Japan) 1.

Waldegard finishes first

NICOSIA, Sweden's Waldegard gave the new Toyota Celica turbo 4WD its first rally victory yesterday when he won the Rothmans Audi Quattro Coupe into third place, just 42 seconds behind Tabaton.

Llewellyn, who won this rally last year, said: "At one point we thought we might catch Bjorn, but this Toyota is a fantastic car. If they've resolved all its earlier problems, it will be a world-beater."

Waldegard's team-mate and fellow Swede Kenneth Eriksson, had the Toyota crew wondering if it was all going to go wrong once again when, like Suijers, he too lost a wheel.

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Jahangir hits back to beat Jansher

KARACHI, Pakistan, Sept 25, (Reuters): World champion Jahangir Khan overturned a two-game deficit to win the Pakistan Open squash title today after another gripping duel with his great rival, Jansher Khan.

Jahangir triumphed 16-17 10-15 15-9 15-9 after 134 minutes against world number one and fellow Pakistani Jansher, who was victorious when they clashed in the Singapore Open earlier this month.

Jahangir, having lost nine times to Jansher in their last 11 meetings, showed superior fitness against an opponent who had previously always relied on stamina to beat him.

Brought

The world champion was satisfied with his performance, which brought him the country's Open title for the eighth time. He lost it only last year to Jansher.

"I am happy to regain the title," he told reporters. "Unlike the Singapore Open, I made minimum mistakes here. I played my strokes and hit them well — that proved decisive. It was a tough match in which my experience helped me."

Jansher felt he was undone by complacency. "I relaxed in the third game and that was my mistake," he said. "Jahangir picked up the pace and made some good strokes."

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Agassi edges McEnroe for final



Agassi returns a volley to McEnroe during the semifinal match. (Reuters wirephoto)

LOS ANGELES, Sept 25, (Reuters): US number one and top seed Andre Agassi defeated one of his tennis heroes, fellow American John McEnroe, in three sets on Saturday to reach the final of the \$415,000 Los Angeles Grand Prix tournament.

The 18-year-old Agassi, ranked fourth in the world, beat the third-seeded McEnroe, ranked 24th and approaching his 30th birthday, 6-4 0-6 6-4.

Agassi was to play Mikael Pernfors of Sweden in today's final. Pernfors beat American Kevin Curren 7-6 6-4.

The first set was even until the ninth game, when McEnroe battled a barrage of passing shots as he rushed the net and was hroken on a backhand error off a backhand pass. Agassi served out the set at 6-4 when McEnroe hit a forehand approach long.

McEnroe cruised through the second set, his sharp serve-and-volley game keeping Agassi off balance.

In the third set, the top seed

turned on the power again, capitalising on a crucial double-fault by McEnroe in the seventh game and then blazng a topspin return for a winner.

McEnroe saved six match points in the 10th game, mostly on errors from a somewhat tentative Agassi. But on the seventh, Agassi pounced on a short ball from McEnroe and swept a backhand winner crosscourt.

"I was a little tentative on the match points but more than that, he raised his game," said Agassi, who played on the US Davis Cup team with McEnroe and has said the former world number one was one of his tennis idols.

Crucial
McEnroe had played a clean-cut serve and volley game but made too many unforced errors on crucial points.

"He can do more with the ball than any other player out there," Agassi said. "If he got his desire back I'd say he could still do it. But when he misses, it's not the same attitude as before."

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